

## **International Civil Society Organizations Denounce Dismissal of Salvadoran Justices, Attorney General**

**May 6, 2021**

As humanitarian, human rights, immigrant-led, and faith-based organizations working on issues related to human rights in Latin America, we denounce the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 decision by El Salvador's legislature, promoted by President Nayib Bukele, to dismiss the nation's Attorney General as well as all five Supreme Court justices belonging to the constitutional chamber.

These actions, which are contrary to Salvadoran law and the Constitution, end independence of the judiciary, undermine democracy and the rule of law, and further concentrate power in the hands of the presidency. This marks a dangerous step backward after Salvadorans have strived for decades to build peace and democracy, following a painful history of military dictatorship and internal armed conflict.

We stand in solidarity with civil society organizations and human rights activists in El Salvador who are working to defend the human rights of all Salvadorans as well as with the independent journalists working to uncover and report the news. We urge the Salvadoran legislature and President Bukele to restore judicial independence, a cornerstone of the rule of law, and human rights protections—and not to further curb judicial authorities and oversight agencies, including the Human Rights Ombudsman's office. We urge the Salvadoran government to respect the freedom of the press and the rights of human rights groups and other civil society organizations to carry out their vital work. We ask the international community to act decisively to press the Salvadoran government to return to the democratic path.

### **Signatories:**

Access Living-Cambiando Vidas  
Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ACIJ)  
Alianza Americas  
Americas Program  
Arkansas United  
ASOSAL: Asociación de Salvadoreños de Los Ángeles  
CASA  
Casa de la Cultura El Salvador  
Casa Yurumein  
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies  
Center for Immigrant Progress | Centro para el Progreso Inmigrante  
Central American Resource Center of Washington, DC  
Central American Resource Center of Los Angeles  
Central American Resource Center of San Francisco  
Central American Resource Center of Houston  
Centro Comunitario CEUS  
Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional - CEJIL México y Centroamérica  
Centro Presente  
Centro Romero  
Centro San Bonifacio

Chelsea Human Services Collaborative, Inc.  
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)  
Cielo--Comunidades Indígenas en Liderazgo  
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)  
CISPES SF Bay Area  
Ciudadanía en Oregon  
Club Francisco Villa  
Club Nueva Visión de Cheranastico  
Club San Juanico  
Club Taji CD Hidalgo  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Colectivo de Mujeres Transnacionales  
Comunidad Colectiva  
Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL)  
COSECHA  
CRECEN  
Diáspora Hondureña Internacional  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Dominican Development Center  
Durango Unido  
ELCA AMMPARO  
Familias Inmigrantes y Estudiantes en la Lucha (FIEL)  
Familias Unidas en Acción  
Federación de Clubes Michoacanos (FEDECMI)  
Florida Immigrant Coalition - FLIC  
Global Exchange  
Global Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ  
Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA  
Haitian Bridge Alliance  
Hondurans Against AIDS  
Human Rights First  
Institute for Policy Studies - Global Economy Project  
Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración (IMUMI)  
International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights  
Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology  
Kids in Need of Defense  
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)  
Latino Advocacy  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Latino Policy Forum  
Latinos Progresando  
Lila Latinx LGBTQI Initiative Inc.  
Living Hope Wheelchair Association  
Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
Mission Guatemala USA  
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala  
Office of Latino/Latin America Studies (OLLAS)  
ONECA (Organización Negra Centroamericana)

Presente.org  
RAICES  
Red de Pueblos Transnacionales  
Red Mexicana de Líderes y Organizaciones de Migrantes  
Rural Women's Health Project  
Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD  
Salvadoreños Aportando a la Democracia  
SHARE Foundation  
Sister Parish  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas – Justice Team  
St Brigid's Casa Mary Johanna  
Strangers No Longer  
Telpochcalli Community Education Project (TCEP)  
The Welcome Immigrant Network  
TIRRC (Tennessee Immigrant Refugee Rights)  
Transformations CDC  
U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities Network  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
Unite Oregon  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United for a Fair Economy  
US El Salvador Sister City Network  
Viento del Espíritu (Wind of the Spirit)  
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)  
WeCount!  
Witness at the Border  
Women Working Together USA