

Managua, February 21 , 2013.

Dear friends from the FIDH Leagues,

Receive a fraternal greeting from Nicaragua. It is with optimism and hope that we address you, so that our organizations of human rights grow stronger and continue contributing to eradicating violence in all its forms, conscious that violence is one of the factors that prevents the true validity of human rights in the world.

In this occasion and keeping in mind the changes of the 38^o Congress and the upcoming nominations of the FIDH International Bureau, we would like to reiterate our support for the nomination of Luis Guillermo Pérez Casas as president of the FIDH.

We have known Luis Guillermo for many years, and are aware of his commitment towards the fight for human rights all over the world. He has an unsparing dedication towards this cause and it is with great capacity that he would assume the presidency, sharing his competence and experience to the service of the FIDH, benefiting the victims of human rights violations from all the regions around the world. We believe, without a doubt, that Luis Guillermo is one of the most connected and respected members of the Human Rights Movement.

This acknowledgement, that trespasses the borders of the American Continent, hasn't been won easily. Luis Guillermo has all the conditions of a fighting militant that has risked, and continues to risk, his life over the battle field that is the fight for human rights. His trajectory, to us, represents one of the fundamental characteristics in a human rights advocate, summarized in one of CENIDH's mottos: "Defending Human Rights is consciously assuming the risks it takes confronting the power that violates them".

Luis Guillermo resigned to his exile and went back to Colombia three years ago, resuming the representation of victims of crimes against humanity and war crimes facing Colombian and interstate courts.

I will not go into more details, for we all know his history, but it is imperative to stand out that during his exile in Belgium he coordinated the Copenhagen Initiative for Central America and Mexico and developed an important project about the impact that treaties of Free Commerce have on human rights, coordinating with Asian and African networks.

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¡DERECHO QUE NO SE DEFIENDE... ES DERECHO QUE SE PIERDE!

He has been a part of several communications, such as "amicus curiae" before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and a vigorous presentation before the International Council of the Social World Forum.

Because of this and much more, it is with certainty that CENIDH supports his nomination and election as president of the FIDH. We hope that the FIDH leagues worldwide also sustain his nomination and have no doubt that he will be supported by the representatives of our Federation.


Vilma Núñez de Escorcía
President