



June 12, 2026

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Organization of American States

Re: Institutional support for the candidacy of César Ricaurte for Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression

On behalf of Voces del Sur, we are pleased to express our support for the candidacy of César Ricaurte for the position of Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

César Ricaurte has been a key figure in the development and consolidation of regional civil society efforts to monitor, document, and respond to attacks against the press in Latin America. As founder and Executive Director of Fundamedios, and as one of the promoters of Voces del Sur, he has contributed decisively to strengthening cooperation among organizations dedicated to the defense of freedom of expression, journalist protection, and democratic accountability.

His leadership has helped build bridges among organizations working in diverse and difficult national contexts. Through this collective work, Voces del Sur has advanced common monitoring methodologies, regional reports, public advocacy, and international engagement on violations against journalists, media outlets, and freedom of expression. César's contribution has been marked by seriousness, generosity, strategic vision, and a deep commitment to regional collaboration.

The challenges currently facing freedom of expression in the Americas demand precisely this kind of regional understanding. Violence against journalists, exile, censorship, judicial harassment, stigmatization, digital attacks, disinformation, and restrictions on civic space are not isolated phenomena. They require coordinated responses, reliable documentation, international standards, and strong links between local realities and regional protection mechanisms.

César Ricaurte brings to this candidacy a rare combination of practical field experience, institutional management, knowledge of the Inter-American Human Rights System, and a proven capacity to turn principles into concrete tools, networks, and protection strategies. His work has strengthened not only Fundamedios but also the broader regional ecosystem defending freedom of expression.

We believe that his experience, independence, and commitment would be a valuable contribution to the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. For these reasons, Voces del Sur respectfully supports his candidacy.

Sincerely,

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