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Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Organization of American States
1889 F Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20006, USA

**Letter of support for the candidacy of César Ricaurte for Special Rapporteur for Freedom
of Expression**

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my personal 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.

I have known César Ricaurte for close to 15 years in my role as a press freedom campaigner who has been aligned in different capacities with the Association of Caribbean Media Workers and to IFEX.

As a former member of the Steering Committee of the Latin American/Caribbean Alliance of IFEX, I have been able to observe at first hand his sustained commitment to the defence of freedom of expression, the protection of journalists and the strengthening of democratic institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Throughout my acquaintance with César, he has demonstrated an uncommon combination of journalistic experience, institutional leadership, knowledge of the Inter-American Human Rights System and the capacity to build concrete responses to complex threats against freedom of expression.

I have attended hemispheric and global events alongside César and found him to be a firm, knowledgeable, and principled advocate and earnest team member.

I am convinced that his appointment would significantly strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Special Rapporteur to respond to the contemporary challenges facing freedom of expression in the Americas.

For these reasons, I emphatically recommend his candidacy and consider that he possesses the professional qualifications, the practical experience and the regional legitimacy necessary to exercise the mandate of Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression with excellence.

Sincerely,



Wesley Gibbings
Vice President, Media Institute of the Caribbean
Advisor, Association of Caribbean Media Workers