



# **GNDEM's statement on the Colombian Ambassador to Guatemala's attack against local Human Rights activists**

*October 11th, 2018*

The Global Network for Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM)<sup>1</sup> The Global Network for Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM) condemns the aggression by the Colombian Ambassador to Guatemala against local human rights activists in that country. The past 3rd of October, Mr. Carlos Manuel Pulido Collazo - Colombian Ambassador to Guatemala - both verbally and physically attacked and threatened Mr. Manfredo Marroquín - an esteemed member of our community, Executive President of the local organization Acción Ciudadana, and member of GNDEM and Transparency International - for voicing his opinions of the Guatemalan Government and advocating for transparency and fighting against corruption and impunity in the country.

The Red OIE-Acuerdo de Lima (Network for Electoral Observation and Integrity), the platform of citizen electoral observation organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean that are part of GNDEM, have already presented a formal letter to report and call upon Colombian authorities to investigate this matter to take the necessary actions to address this very serious incident.

GNDEM condemns the attack by the Colombian Ambassador to Guatemala against local activists because it means a serious violation of International law and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Being that one of the central principles of the diplomatic function is the non-interference in domestic matters, Mr. Carlos Manuel Pulido Collazo's actions are constitutive of an infringement of his duty. In addition, his hostile, menacing and aggressive comments and actions against activists and organizations for criticizing the Guatemalan Government entails a disregard of the diplomatic obligation to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

In line with the position of the Red OIE-Acuerdo de Lima, GNDEM and its members condemn the Colombian Ambassador to Guatemala's attack against Manfredo Marroquín and call upon Colombian authorities to open a thorough investigation to take the due and necessary actions to clarify the incident and remedy its consequences. GNDEM insists in that the role of diplomacy is crucial for the promotion of friendly and peaceful relations between governments and citizens of the countries of the world and that its fundamental principles and functions should be respected and safeguarded by everyone.

---

<sup>1</sup> \* GNDEM is a platform that brings together more than 200 civil society organizations that carry out domestic electoral observation throughout the world.

This statement was endorsed by:



**LADE**  
الجمعية اللبنانية من أجل  
ديمقراطية الإنتخابات



**Endorsers:**

1. Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM)
2. Acuerdo de Lima<sup>2</sup>
3. Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE)
4. National Election Watch (NEW)

---

<sup>2</sup> “Acuerdo de Lima” is the regional platform that gathers the following electoral observation organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean: Poder Ciudadano (Argentina); Bolivia Transparente (Bolivia); Participa (Chile); Misión de Observación Electoral (Colombia); Corporación Participación Ciudadana (Ecuador); Acción Ciudadana (Guatemala); Conseil d’Observation National (Haití); Alianza Cívica (Mexico); Grupo Cívico Ética y Transparencia (Nicaragua); Justicia y Paz (Panama); Decidamos (Paraguay); Transparencia (Perú); Participación Ciudadana (Dominican Republic); Iniciativa Social para la Democracia (Salvador); Centro de Asesoría y Promoción Electoral (Costa Rica); National Democratic Institute (United States); Hagamos Democracia (Honduras); Citizens Action for Free & Fair Elections (Jamaica); and Ojo Electoral (Venezuela).