

## Solidarity with Emilio Palacio

We the undersigned, op-ed writers of the Ecuadorian press, wish to state the following in light of the ruling which has sentenced Emilio Palacio—editor of the editorial page of *El Universo*—to three years in prison:

- The President of the Republic promoted the lawsuit publicly. This constituted the culmination of a series of affronts against the journalist now condemned, which included the expulsion from the Palace of Carondelet (the Government Palace) and frequent insults emitted during the President’s Saturday broadcasts.
- The op-ed in which the public official who initiated the lawsuit is supposedly slandered was written after groups who sympathize with the government blocked the offices of *El Universo* newspaper.
- Without necessarily backing the content of the op-ed, which provoked the lawsuit, the ruling leads us to believe that its real intention is to intimidate a free press.

Thus,

- We express our solidarity with Emilio Palacio in his right to exercise his freedom of speech.
- We reject the pressure that political power has brought to bear over the courts to obtain rulings that contribute to silence the press.
- And we note that the opinion sections are, since the earliest days of the press, an essential component of journalism, which should be valued, respected and promoted.

Bernardo Acosta  
Vicente Albornoz  
Vladimiro Álvarez  
Diego Araujo  
Guillermo Arosemena  
Jorge Bello Moreira  
“Bonil”  
Pedro Vincent Bowen  
Felipe Burbano  
Gabriela Calderón  
Federico Chiriboga  
Manuel Chiriboga  
Fabián Corral  
Nelsa Curbelo  
Simón Cueva  
Ana María Correa  
Simón Espinosa Jalil  
Francisco “Pájaro” Febres Cordero

Carlos Larreátegui  
Elsa de Mena  
Pablo Ortiz  
Pablo Lucio Paredes  
Gonzalo Maldonado  
Daniel Márquez Soares  
Abelardo Pachano  
Simón Pachano  
Gonzalo Peltzer  
Hernán Pérez Loose  
Diego Pérez Ordóñez  
Mauricio Pozo  
Alfonso Reece D.  
Miguel Rivadeneira  
Benjamín Rosales  
Yolanda Rojal  
José Samaniego  
Ricardo Tello Carrión

Thalía Flores  
Manuel Ignacio Gómez  
Ivonne Guzmán  
Grace Jaramillo  
Laura de Jarrín  
Carlos Jijón

“Tomás del Pelo”  
Andrés Vallejo  
Pedro Valverde  
Nila Velásquez  
Carlos A. Ycaza