

XXV Congress of the Socialist International  
Cartagena, Colombia, 2-3-4 March 2017

**DECLARATION ON LEGAL RESTRICTIONS OF LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERS**

Original: Spanish

The SI Congress expresses its concern at the increase in politically motivated court cases in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Congress stresses the central role of the judiciary for the proper functioning of democracy and calls for an end to its instrumentalisation. The Congress reiterates its solidarity with those who have experienced restrictions on their rights because of political reasons and condemns the prosecution of representatives of its member parties in Latin America, in particular those on the opposition, such as in the case in Paraguay with Rafael Filizzola, Chairman of the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), and in Bolivia with Samuel Doria Medina, President of the National Unity Front (UN). In Bolivia, the procedural constraints that have been imposed, coupled with the decision by President Evo Morales to seek a new presidential nomination without knowing the outcome of the referendum of 21 February 2016, are of concern to SI with regard to Bolivian democracy.

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