Collective of International Lawyers and Jurists against Corruption and Impunity (CAJICI)

Petro Caribe Case (Scandal)

August 30/2018

Press release – Nº 1

The Collective of International Lawyers and Jurists against Corruption and Impunity (CAJICI) wishes to congratulate the people of Haiti and its diaspora on their courage to ask, with one voice, the Haitian judicial authorities to take responsibility and get to the bottom of the mismanagement of 3.8 billion US dollars generated from the Petro Caribe fund.

The Collective fully supports the peaceful march held by the Haitian diaspora in Montreal on Saturday, September 1st, 2018 and all other community mobilization activities regarding the Petro Caribe case.

The Collective would like to point out to the Haitian authorities that it is in their best interests that details of the management of the Petro Caribe fund are revealed. When citizens demand accountability, it is the leaders’ duty, for the sake of transparency, to take all the necessary measures to satisfy their request. The Haitian people have a right to know, with complete transparency, how the Petro Caribe funds were used.

The Collective of International Lawyers and Jurists against Corruption and Impunity (CAJICI) draws the Haitian authorities’ attention to the fact that corruption has adverse effects on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. Additionally, it has negative impacts on the quality of life of citizens. In this sense, complaints filed by Haitian citizens to the Cabinet of Instructions (examining magistrates) and the current social mobilization are legitimate.

Therefore, we the signatories of this press release, closely monitor current the legal proceedings and the work done by the advisors of the High Court for Oversight and Administrative proceedings CSC/CA. We believe that none of these representatives, regardless of position, have an interest in causing a denial of Justice with regard to this case.

The Collective points out to the judicial authorities and the valiant advisers of High Court for Oversight and Administrative Proceedings that, according to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, corruption is a transnational crime. With that being said, any mismanagement of the Petro Caribe fund and any denial of justice give rise to international remedies. Financial crime has no place in our institutions.

The Collective, in the interests of transparency and respect for the right of access to information, asks citizens to continue to demand clarity on the mismanagement of the Petro Caribe fund. The Haitian Head of State, whose mission is to ensure effective governance based on the Haitian constitution, has
to make sure the CSC/CA advisers and the investigating magistrate have all the necessary resources to complete their investigations.

The Collective asks the Haitian population to remain vigilant. The final report of CSC/CA will require approval by the parliament, considering that in accordance with the constitution, some of the individuals being accused in the Senate report are high-ranking government officials subject to prosecution by the High Court of Justice and former prime ministers and former ministers accountable to parliament with regards to their administration.

The mobilization has to continue beyond the CSC/CA report, in order to force members of parliament to accept the recommendations of High Court for Oversight and Administrative Proceedings and to deliver the suspected perpetrators of corruption and misappropriation linked to the utilization of the Petro Caribe fund to criminal justice. The fire of mobilization should be kept burning before the criminal court in order to force judicial authorities to conduct a reliable investigation and condemn the embezzlers of public funds for the benefit of the community.

The Collective asks the police authority and the justice system to keep on ensuring the safety of the protesters before, during and after all social mobilization. The right to mobilize and protest is a fundamental right.

**Long live a Haiti free from corruption and impunity!**

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