

**2024 Washington Model Organization of
American States General Assembly**

Washington Packet

First Committee



Washington Model

Organization of American States

Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas



OAS

More rights for more people

April 8-12, 2024

**TRANSNATIONAL EFFORTS TO PROTECT POLITICAL SPEECH IN LATIN
AMERICA**

The First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Bolivia

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 3 of Chapter Two from the OAS Charter declaring “the fundamental rights of the individual”;

Article 4 of Chapter One of The American Declaration of The Rights and Duties of Man, which declares that “every person has the right to freedom of investigation, of opinion, and of the expression and dissemination of ideas, by any medium whatsoever”;

Article 106 of the Charter of the OAS, which affirms to “to promote the observance and protection of human rights and to serve as a consultative organ of the Organization in these matters”;

Chapter 2 Article 13, Freedom of Thought and Expression, of the American Convention on Human Rights (the "Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica"), which emphasizes the right of all individuals to express their opinions freely.

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The problem of persecution of political speech in various countries across Latin America;

EMPHASIZING:

That Organization of American States is dedicated to upholding human rights, including the fundamental right to freedom of speech;

REAFFIRMING:

That the right to freedom of speech is protected by binding Inter-American instruments such as the Charter of the OAS, the American Declaration of The Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights (the "Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica"), and the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, among others;

RECALLING:

That the 2020 Annual Report of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States acknowledged the worsening conditions of human rights regarding political persecution in

Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Cuba, thereby highlighting the urgent need for concerted action and international solidarity to address these challenges.

RESOLVES:

1. To applaud Member States for their commitment to have open dialogue on freedom of speech for journalists and civilians.
2. To encourage Member States to condemn all forms of political persecution and violence based on speech, recognizing them as blatant violations of the principles of the OAS.
3. To urge Member States to cooperate with regional and international human rights bodies in efforts to address cases of political persecution and violence based on speech, including through the sharing of relevant information and the facilitation of visits by independent investigators.
4. To call upon Member States to uphold their obligations under international law to protect the rights of individuals to express their political opinions freely, without fear of persecution or reprisal.
 - a. To encourage Member States to conduct thorough investigations into cases of imprisonment of activists, journalists, and political adversaries.
 - b. To urge Member States to enforce their laws regarding limitations on speech in a fair and just manner.
 - c. To encourage the release of political prisoners who have been detained unjustly.
5. To strengthen cooperation with regional and international human rights bodies by:
 - a. Establishing a clear protocol for the rapid sharing of information on instances of political persecution and speech-based violence.
 - b. Facilitating and supporting the deployment of independent investigative missions to assess and report on such cases.
6. To Secure Sustainable Funding for initiatives aimed at protecting political speech and human rights, seeking contributions from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), observer countries, and civil society organizations like Freedom House, with transparency in the allocation and use of funds.
7. To encourage dialogue and cooperation among member states to develop and implement effective strategies for the protection of political speech and the prevention of human rights violations in the context of political discourse.

- a. To call upon member states to create a biannual conference held in an OAS member state country in which they discuss the state of political speech in Latin America and focus on the OAS’s vision for free speech.

Approved for form and substance: _____
 (Signature of Faculty advisor)

Cosignatories:

1.		
	(Signature of Delegate)	(Country Represented)
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

**STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND PROMOTING FAIR ELECTIONS TO
PROTECT AGAINST THE THREAT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

First Committee

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Suriname

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 23 from the Inter-American Democratic Charter that states Member States are “responsible for organizing conducting and ensuring free and fair Electoral processes”;

Article 24 from the Inter-American Democratic Charter that states electoral “observation missions shall be carried out in accordance with the principles and norms of the OAS. The organizations shall ensure that these missions are effective and independent and shall provide them with the necessary resources for that purpose. They shall be conducted in an objective, impartial, and transparent manner and with the appropriate technical expertise;”

Article 27 from the Inter-American Democratic Charter that states the objective is “Promoting good governance, sound administration, democratic values, and the strengthening of political institutions and civil society organizations”;

Article 51 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) which state Member States “will develop science and technology through educational, research, and technological development activities and information and dissemination programs...to stimulate activities in the field of technology for the purpose of adapting it to the needs of integral development. They will organize their cooperation in these fields efficiently and will substantially increase exchange of knowledge, in accordance with national objectives and laws and with treaties in force;”

RECALLING:

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter plays a role in supporting democracy throughout the hemisphere by clarifying what democracy entails and how to defend it when under threat;

The important role international non-governmental organizations such as the International Foundation for Electoral Systems play in supporting civic education and the development of transparent and robust electoral systems; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

About the potential of AI to undermine democratic processes in countries throughout the Hemisphere;

RESOLVES:

1. To thank Member States for their efforts to support impartial, free, and fair elections.
2. To urge Member States to increase efforts to improve electoral transparency and address challenges posed by AI.
3. To promote education and awareness during elections by:
 - a. Educating voters on the potential impact of AI on elections;
 - b. Educating officials on the potential impact of AI on elections.
4. To encourage OAS Member States to continue to work to support free and fair elections by:
 - a. Verifying voters lists to ensure that voter registration information is correct and current;
 - b. Cataloguing and reporting voter fraud;
 - c. Investigate electoral irregularities;
 - d. Catalogue the efforts being taken in each of these areas for the sake of sharing.
5. To strongly encourage OAS Member States to engage in the creation of an online forum where they can exchange information and ideas about the following:
 - a. The issues that Artificial Intelligence is posing to elections;
 - b. Strategies they are taking to address the challenges AI poses to elections and democratic processes.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____ (Signature of Delegate) _____ (Country Represented)
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

**FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS
AND/OR CITIZENS FROM VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Guatemala

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Section 1, Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights which proves “everyone has the right to freedom of thought and expression. This right includes freedom to look for, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds,” without regard to borders and by any means of transmission.

Section 2, Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Right, which establishes “the exercise of the right provided for in the foregoing paragraph shall not be subject to prior censorship but shall be subject to subsequent imposition of liability, which shall be expressly established by law to the extent necessary to ensure: a. respect for the rights or reputations of others; or b. the protection of national security, public order, or public health or morals”;

Section 3, Article 13 the American Convention on Human Right, which states “the right of expression may not be restricted by indirect methods or means, such as the abuse of government or private controls over newsprint, radio broadcasting frequencies, or equipment used in the dissemination of information, or by any other means tending to impede the communication and circulation of ideas and opinions”;

Section 1, Article 4 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter (2001), which says that “Transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of the governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy”;

Article 30 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, that establishes that Member States, “pledge themselves to a united effort to ensure international social justice in their relations and integral development for their peoples, as conditions essential to peace and security” and that “integral development encompasses the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological field”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Article 18 of the United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which establishes that “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance, ”

Article 4 of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Men, which proclaims that “every person has the right to freedom of investigation, of opinion, and of the expression and dissemination of ideas, by any medium whatsoever”;

Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights provides that “everyone has the right to freedom of thought and expression. This right includes freedom to look for, receive, and impart information

and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, in print, in the form of art, or through any other medium of one's choice”:

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes the right “to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”;

RECOGNIZING:

That freedom of expression is essential for the consolidation and development of democracy and convinced that any obstacle to the free discussion of ideas and opinions limits freedom of expression and the effective development of the democratic process.

Prior censorship, direct or indirect interference in, or pressure exerted upon any expression, opinion, or information transmitted through any means of oral, written, artistic, visual, or electronic communication must be prohibited by law. Restrictions to the free circulation of ideas and opinions, the arbitrary imposition of information, and obstacles to the free flow of information violate the right to freedom of expression.

The murder, kidnapping, intimidation of and/or threats to social communicators, as well as the material destruction of communications media violate the fundamental rights of individuals and strongly restrict freedom of expression. It is the state's duty to prevent and investigate such occurrences, punish their perpetrators, and ensure that victims receive due compensation.

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

Between the years of 2010 and 2013 at least 78 journalists were murdered in the region, and many more journalists suffer threats or assaults, while others are forced to self-censor as the only way to protect themselves. The highest figure recorded by The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (RELE) in the last 24 years.

In 2022, at least 39 journalists, belonging to 10 of the 35 OAS Member States have been murdered in the Americas for reasons that could be linked to their profession, according to reports from international and local organizations working in defense of press freedom. The murders were reported in Brazil (3), Chile (1), Colombia (4), Ecuador (2), United States (1), Guatemala (1), Haiti (8), Honduras (3), Mexico (15) and Paraguay (1).

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States for showcasing their commitment and effort to protect and guarantee the freedom of expression and speech in their territories through their implementation of projects and initiatives, especially in supporting freedom expression and speech in public areas a mechanism to encourage democracy in the Western Hemisphere.
2. To praise Member States that promote and support the rights of all citizens to freely express and hold opinions, especially among citizens and journalists which contributes to developing an increasingly diverse and democratic society.
3. To call upon the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/ACH.R) to collaborate with OAS Member States to increase their ability to investigate, try, and convict individuals who commit acts of violence, intimidation, threats, and murder to journalist and media workers, by:

- a. Providing Member State counsel when adopting systemic framework and instruments that strengthen their judicial systems efficiency.
 - b. Providing police and security service training on respect for the media and freedom of expression; and,
 - c. Carry out serious, impartial, and effective investigations by:
 - i. Establishing an independent and dedicated judicial system.
 - ii. Creating a specialized protection programs for journalists; and,
 - iii. Establishing specialized investigative, prosecutorial, and tribunals units.
4. To propose that Member States adopt legislative policies which:
- a. Categorize acts of violence, intimidation, threats, and murder of journalist and media workers be regarded as a high crime of equal conviction to assassinating a government official; and,
 - b. Require media companies within their district to provide journalists and media workers comprehensive resources and digital security training, which includes but is not limited to, encrypted communication tools and cybersecurity mechanism to protect against online threats and surveillance.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____
(Signature of Delegate) (Country Represented)

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____