

**Statement by the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI)
in response to the unfounded comments of the Mexican Government
about the National Human Rights Commission of Mexico (CNDH)**

The [International Ombudsman Institute \(IOI\)](#) is the only global organization representing the international ombudsman community with 200 independent institutions from more than 100 countries worldwide (Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Pacific, the Caribbean and Latin America, Europe and North America). The IOI expresses its support for the National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH) of Mexico, which faces negative statements and damaging remarks issued by the Mexican Government, in reaction to the Office carrying out its constitutional mandate as the independent body to protect and promote human rights in Mexico.

The IOI learned with great concern, through the media about the negative and undermining remarks made by the President of the Mexican Republic. It is inevitable that in the course of the work of any Ombudsman recommendations will be produced that are critical of the actions of Government bodies. In a democracy, there is an expectation that such criticism will be properly considered and acted upon. Discrediting the work of the CNDH of Mexico, a long-standing and highly respected member of our organization, is being perceived internationally not only as evidence of a lack of respect for the institution, but also for the rights of the Mexican citizens using its services.

The Mexican State is a party to international treaties that require to respect, protect and comply with the human rights obligations contained in them and it is expected to act, to impede and prevent violations, as well as to investigate any abuse and to provide the victims with remedies and redress. Mexican authorities therefore made a commitment to comply with these international standards, in order to protect and recognize the function, powers and constitutional mandate of the National Human Rights Commission.

The members of the IOI adopted the [Bangkok Declaration in November 2016](#), confirming their mutual understanding that Ombudsman shall not be subject to any form of intimidation or threats that would limit their independence or undermine their ability to

protect the fundamental rights of all persons. In line with this declaration, the IOI expresses its deep concern over the recent developments and strongly condemns any attacks on the Ombudsman or the institution of the National Human Rights Commission.

Ombudsman institutions are a core element of democracy and form an integral part of constitutional reality. In a state ruled by law, it is in the best public interest to respect and support the independent investigative mandate of the Ombudsman.

The IOI expresses its full support for the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) of Mexico and its President, Mr Luis Raúl González. We encourage Government authorities to acknowledge the mandate of the institution and we call for a reasoned and professional dialogue with CNDH and its office holders in the future.



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