

Seventh-day Adventist Church
East Venezuelan Union Mission

Clarification on accusations received about the promotion of secessionist movement and plea for a reply.

In the TV show “Dossier”, on July 23, 2018, broadcasted by the State channel “Venezolana de Televisión” [Venezuelan Television] (VTV) the honorable journalist Walter Martinez interviewed General Robert González Cárdenas, who made slandering and baseless affirmations that linked the Seventh-day Adventist Church with the promotion of secessionist movements in the southern region of the country and also claimed that we are the new face of the religious organization *Nuevas Tribus* [New Tribes Mission, currently known as Ethnos360]. We feel urgently bounded to claim our right to refute and clarify in the same space [i.e. the Dossier TV Show] that those affirmation are unreal and incredible, because they ignore the history, character and work of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in its more than one hundred and five years of presence in our fatherland in which we never promote politics on public or private spheres.

As a formal organization we have always limited ourselves to spiritual functions and humanitarian aid for the development of our compatriots and our country. Therefore, we must point out that no [Adventist] leader have ever declared, hinted or supported any secessionist movement as was indicated by the interviewed and the individual mentioned [Lisa Lynn Henrito Percy] is not a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and cannot be considered as a leader or spokesperson of our respected organization.

Hereby we wish to express our profound sentiment of rejection to those affirmations, because they overshadow the long, transparent and bright legacy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout our country and affront the more than three hundred thousand members and more than a million people that comprise their family and friends scattered in the national territory that worshipped in more than two thousand churches in all the states of our fatherland since more than ten decades.

Our Church, formally and legally registered at the *Dirección de Justicia y Culto* [Directory of Justice and Denominations] in the *Ministerio del Poder Popular para las Relaciones Interiores, Justicia y Paz* [Ministry of Popular Power for Internal Affairs, Justice and Peace], have complied with all the requirements necessities for its function since the moment when was established over a century ago and its being led by national men [i.e. Venezuelan individuals] educated in our territory.

We believe that these affirmations may have been caused by the negligence of the sources that the interviewed had, therefore we request our right for a reply and a clarification, supported by the article 58 of the *Constitución de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela* [Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela] with the purpose of presenting an explanation to the distinguished audience that follow, respect and listen the prestigious [TV] program.

For over a century we have enjoyed in our country religious freedom that allowed us to form honorable citizens, respectful of the government, supported by the article 59 of the *Carta Magna* [i.e. Constitution], that expanded the free exercise of our beliefs within a constitutional framework. We hope and pray that these affirmations do not become a door for a climate of religious intolerance. Our country has always foregrounded the free exercise of religion in the world, especially for those who have been leaders and members, serving God and the country with all their hearts.

Caracas, July 25, 2018

By the East Venezuelan Union Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
Pr. Jorge Rolando Atalido
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