DECLARATION OF THE IBERO AMERICAN GROUP OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES ON THE STATUS OF THE JUDGE MARIA LOURDES AFIUNI MORA IN VENEZUELA

On December 10, 2009 Afiuni Judge Maria Lourdes Mora, was abruptly arrested in the exercise of her duties in her own official office, as a Judge in Caracas in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, only because she has ruled a judicial decision. This Judge is detained since then with common delinquent, having been victim of attempts on her life and physical integrity.

Therefore:
1) We strongly condemn the imprisonment of Afiuni Judge Maria Lourdes Mora, and the systematic violation of hers fundamental rights and guarantees.
2) Also condemn the present situation of clear danger to her life and personal integrity in which Judge AFIUNI is involved in a obvious violation of fundamental norms of internationally recognized Human Rights.
3) We demand to the Venezuelan authorities the respect of the guarantees and fundamental rights of Judge AFIUNI Mora Maria Lourdes, and we demand for her immediate release and with the assurance of a due process of law.
4) We require to the same authorities the effective respect to the Independence of the Judiciary.
5) We also encourage the International Organizations and Associations of Judges, prosecutors and court officials, Bar Associations, Academics and all organizations defending human rights, to be incorporated into an international movement for the immediate release of Judge AFIUNI, and the defence of Judicial Independence in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
6) This regional Group inform this dramatic situation to the presidential committee of the International Association of Judges, and to each regional Group of this organization, so they can take urgently the necessary steps to demand the restoration of Rights due to the Judge AFIUNI with immediate release from jail.

Given in the city of Mar Del Plata, Argentina, fourteenth (14) day of April, two thousand and ten (2010).

Signed by the following delegations of Latin American Group:
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Porto Rico, Uruguay.