

We denounce the political, legal persecution against Prof. Mario Sandoval

The Collective of Persons Deprived of Freedom and Access to Justice along with the Human Rights Defenders Association of Latin America, **strongly reject the legal and political persecution carried out by the authorities of the Argentine State against Professor Mario Sandoval.** Professor Sandoval, a French citizen who was born in Buenos Aires, has been accused by the federal justice system of crimes of which he is completely innocent.

Until March 2008 Professor Sandoval was not linked for any reason to the so-called, "trials against humanity", or to the pseudo-legal parody of a fraudulent political maneuver. That was until the Federal Prosecutor, Eduardo Taiano (using information obtained from "Page 12", dated March 16, 2008) linked the Sandoval surname with the so-called ESMA cause and the 1976 kidnapping of the Hernán Abriata without legal support. The Federal Judge Sergio Torres allowed the Prosecutor's arguments even though the documents and testimonies in the case did not show that Mario Sandoval was in the ESMA. In addition, Judge Torres also would not consider that the description provided by the witnesses of Hernán Abriata's abduction did not coincide in any way with the physical appearance of Professor Sandoval. Despite this lack of evidence, Judge found him guilty of a crime, declared him contumacious, decreed his preventive detention and requested his extradition to France. The reason? Simply the politics and ideology and pressure from organizations that hide behind the pseudo - defense of Human Rights.

The Justice and the Argentine Government are aware of the irregularities of the procedure against Professor Sandoval and are therefore clearly to blame for the illegality and in flagrant violation of the principles of criminal non-retroactivity and criminal prescription. Collective criminal responsibility is applied, and constitutional and international guarantees have not been respected. It is thus recognized in the conduct of the judicial and administrative authorities the commission of crimes perpetrated under absolute impunity.

For more than ten years, Mario Sandoval has been the victim of slander, degrading treatment, and all kinds of defamations by the Argentine judicial authorities and politicians working in fraudulent connivance with the media and the Franco-Argentine associations that claim the right to define themselves of "human rights". Also, his family in Buenos Aires suffers arbitrary decisions of justice.

Professor Mario Sandoval, regularly denounces, through numerous publications the juridical insecurity that reigns in Argentina, the corruption of the Federal Justice; the illegitimacy of trials against humanity; the judicial persecution and the situation of the political prisoners. He has become the spokesperson of the society and institutions of the '70 situation. It has been worth to him to be victim of threats to his freedom of expression on the part of the Observatory for the Protection of the Defenders of Human rights - 20/04 / 2018-

To the Abriata family, they are reminded that they saw the people who broke into their home and know honestly that Mario Sandoval did not participate in the kidnapping of Hernán Abriata. Because of the defense of objective truth, we ask you not to be influenced by people or associations that profit from the painful past that Argentina experienced, displaying an opportunism and pettiness that makes pain the desire for justice in a vengeance that blind falls in injustices as in the case of Sandoval.

We ask the French Government and Justice to protect the human rights of Mario Sandoval against the abuse of the Argentine Republic of the principle of legal sovereignty. To accede to the demand of the Argentine authorities would be a contradiction with the fundamental principles sustained by France, the cradle of human rights and which it defends internationally from the bottom of its History.

There are no legal arguments to support the request for extradition to the Argentina of Sandoval as well as there is no legal or legal support for France to grant it. The French justice must decide according to law and shed all ideological or political influence emanating from Franco - Argentine associations composed of former members of terrorist organizations that acted in Argentina in the 70s.

Likewise, we request that Professor Mario Sandoval recover his ambulatory freedom, the enjoyment of his good name and honor and that it is not an exchange pledge for reasons or interests of the State between Argentina and France. BUENOS AIRES-ARGENTINA, APRIL 21, 2018

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