



INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES EMPLOYEURS
ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL DE EMPLEADORES

PRESS RELEASE

IOE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH VENEZUELA

Geneva, 6 February 2007 – High-level IOE representatives visited Venezuela to safeguard the rights of employers in light of the Government’s recent announcements to restrict private property rights and the continued violation of employers’ rights.

“The political situation of the employers in Venezuela not only affects business but the international community as a whole,” says IOE Secretary General, Mr. Peñalosa. “The Venezuelan employers and the IOE are open to dialogue. We have conveyed several times to the Government of Venezuela our continuous commitment to dialogue. Our main objective is that the rights of FEDECAMARAS, the only representative employers’ organization in the country, are safeguarded and are not subject to any harassment by means of action that goes against international conventions. FEDECAMARAS has worldwide business recognition and support.”

Mr. Peñalosa also recalled that three years ago, the IOE had filed a complaint before the International Labour Organization Committee on Freedom of Association which comprised elements that are even more relevant today. The IOE shall update this complaint in the near future, denouncing recent attacks to business.

The IOE – represented by Regional Vice-President for South America, Dagoberto Lima-Godoy, Secretary-General, Antonio Peñalosa and Adviser, Maria Paz Anzorreguy – held a series of important discussions with FEDECAMARAS on the current economic, political and social situation in the country and in particular to discuss issues such as social dialogue, the right of freedom of expression and association of the business community and the protection of property rights.

At the Press Conference on 30th January, the President of FEDECAMARAS, José Luis Betancourt, recalled that the problems affecting Venezuela are of great concern to the world business community considering the Government’s announcements and threats directed at restricting property rights.

Mr. Lima Godoy reminded that “sustainable development is only possible through private investment. There is no better way to conduct the development project of a society than the one based on political and economic freedom. We are committed to the idea that private initiative is the best way to organize the economy with a view to collective interest”.

“Venezuela is going through an exceptional situation and it is our obligation to support FEDECAMARAS which is an IOE member. We are here not only to support but also to observe the situation in the country which is of utmost importance to the whole Latin American region,” concluded Mr. Lima Godoy.

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