

April 18th, 2012

Mr. President,

I think that our American continent, its identity and our regional Human Rights System, has been a bulwark for the Human Rights development worldwide, both in the doctrine established by the IACHR and the jurisprudence developed by the Inter American Court on Human Rights; which is why I want to collaborate and contribute to those inputs so I have decided to apply to the position of Executive Secretary of the IACHR, aware of the existing need to defend the integrity of the System, as well as the independence and the strengthening of the Commission itself. I am confident that the IACHR can technically strengthen the change processes regarding the Human Rights taking place now in the Continent's countries, where, despite all the problems, the democratic consolidation is advancing and to which we all may contribute in fraternal dialogue spirit.

I have the knowledge, motivation and determination, as well as the experience, necessary to hold such a position due to my experience as a lawyer, journalist and Human Rights activist. My goal is to continue my work from the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR, by strengthening a serious, motivated work team, able to meet the work requirements and challenges of the Commission.

Likewise, I intend to maintain a spirit of dialogue and technical cooperation with the Governments in the area, which will allow us, as a continent, to strengthen the models of democratic governments, warranting the full exercise of Human Rights and access to justice. As it is precisely the exercise of these Rights what enables us to measure the democracy level.

Over the last 32 years I have had the privilege to dedicate my life working for the Human Rights, both in the field of HR Defenders and Civil Society, as by being even a member of the Government Cabinet as the Presidential Human Rights Commissioner in my own country, Guatemala.

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Excelentísimo Señor Embajador  
Leónidas Rosa Bautista  
Presidente del Consejo Permanente  
Organización de Estados Americanos -OEA-  
Su Despacho

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I had the opportunity to serve the victims of Human Rights violations, as a legal advisor on a national level but I was also able to advise them on their petitions before the Inter-American Human Rights System; in the same way, I accompanied the victims in their complaint to the Human Rights Commission and other Treaty Bodies and UN Special Rapporteurs.

In particular, I took part of the beginning of the approach of the Right to the Truth, Justice and Reparation as essential elements of the National Reconciliation until the moment when I became a mandate holder as Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, for the UN Human Rights Council.

In my own country, Guatemala, I have worked for the Labor Rights as Legal Advisor for the “Central Nacional de Trabajadores” (1975-1981); for the Indigenous Peoples Rights and against ethnical and racial discrimination through the “Comité de Campesinos del Altiplano” and the Indigenous Public Defender - Waxakib Noj, and the community claims regarding the Public Consultation established in the ILO Convention 169, as well as access to their own communications media through Community Radio Frequencies in compliance with the principles of pluralism and diversity of the Freedom of Expression and the UN Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples Rights.

In 1990 I founded the Center for Human Rights Legal Action – CALDH – (by its Spanish acronym) where I was the Director for 13 years and which has the mission to present cases of HR violations, unsolved in the country, before the International Human Rights Mechanisms; particularly processing the claims before the Commission and eventually before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, such as the “Plan de Sánchez” and “Río Negro” cases.

From my visually impaired condition I have worked with organizations of people with special needs for their integration into the everyday life on equal terms, for their access to services and public places, as well as access to software and new communication technologies which facilitate the daily tasks and work in better technical terms. I accompanied the development and institutionalization of the National Commission of Disabled People – CONADI (for its Spanish Acronym) in Guatemala, which had, among its early campaigns, the establishment of a Braille ballot which provided access to vote for the blind people.

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As a founding member of the Social Movement for the Rights of Children and Youth in Guatemala, I have worked for the establishment of a legal framework through the Law of Integral Protection for Children and Teenagers (PINA Law for its Spanish acronym) and as Legal Advisor I have fought against child violence and exploitation, against illegal adoptions and promoted an Adoptions Law which guarantees due process and the Best Interest of the Child. As Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression I have maintained a firm position on the legitimate limitations to this Right in terms of protecting the Human Rights of others, in particular, eradicating child pornography and any message of incitement to hatred or violence against children or for reasons of race, nationality, religion, gender or sexual preference.

I have maintained an unwavering position for the young people in Central America, against the hard-line policies, claiming the need to generate public policies to prevent the violence that is affecting the young people, as the most human way to promote public security. During my tenure as Presidential Human Rights Commissioner (2004-2008) I developed from the COPREDEH, the Public Policy for Violence Prevention which was approved by the President and the Cabinet. Currently, through the DEMOS Institute, we have developed a leadership and new citizenship program with young people from the rural areas, especially indigenous women, through which they also develop communication skills such as the theater, radio and television programs production, using new technologies to exercise their freedom of expression and incidence in public policies.

As a resident of a region with high levels of violence against women, I have decided that it is important to help tear down the wall of impunity and strengthen the institutions of justice and women protection, which is why I have accompanied the legal work of the foundation "Sobrevivientes", and other initiatives fighting and growing visibility on Women's Rights; as well as designing campaigns to raise their voices, their struggle for equality and nonviolence, with special emphasis on the promotion of programs that bring indigenous and rural women closer to the new communication technologies as an element of equity and fight for their rights.

I believe I have the necessary knowledge and experience to exercise such a position, not only legal, but organizational, and also as a journalist, I have the ability to socialize the work and achievements of the Commission.

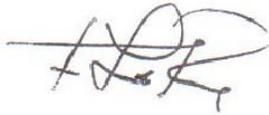
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It is also one of my goals to provide full support to the Commission's initiatives in the area of gender equity and teamwork relationships in the Secretariat. It is particularly important to me, that the Human Rights work responds to the ethnic and cultural diversity of our continent, having in mind that the purpose of the Human Rights can only be effective if every human being has equal opportunities to exercise them.

Without anything further, I take this opportunity to express my highest esteem and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Frank La Rue', with a stylized, cursive script.

Frank La Rue