



## Support Gustavo Gorriti and Press Freedom

The concerned people signing this letter are proud to stand in solidarity with renowned Peruvian journalist Gustavo Gorriti and his staff at IDL-Reporteros against an effort to abuse their country's legal system to silence them.

The Gorriti team's "crime?" Being too good at protecting the public's interests.

Gorriti has exposed more corruption schemes at the highest levels of the Peruvian government than almost any other living journalist. He has been a Nieman Fellow at Harvard. He and IDL-Reporteros, a nonprofit investigative outlet that he leads, have won countless international awards for their work. Their documented, rigorous investigations have exposed corruption and forced prosecutors to act. The result: Peru is now famous for having jailed more former presidents than any country in the world.

Now it's Gorriti who is facing jail time.

The baseless allegations say that he is not a journalist but a criminal mastermind; that the real criminals are Gorriti and the anti-graft prosecutors who have led Peru's longest anti-corruption

crusade in decades. While these charges are pure fantasy, the intimidation attempt is all too real: prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation against Gorriti. They are even trying to force him to reveal his sources.

The [National Press Club](#), Freedom House, PEN America, Fundamedios, the International Center for Journalists, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the [Committee to Protect Journalists](#), [Reporters Without Borders](#), the [Inter American Press Association](#) (Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa) and Peru's [Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad](#) all have condemned this attempt to interfere with press freedom.

We know Gorriti will never let himself be bullied. The Peruvian state must not try to imprison journalists or seek to expose their sources. To do so would be a huge setback for justice and civil society in Peru and all of Latin America. It would send the message that wrongdoers can enjoy impunity and that civil liberties are only for those who knuckle under to corruption.

Gorriti and his staff have bravely withstood years of libel and harassment campaigns from the people whom they investigated. Thugs have stalked them, and thrown trash and even human feces at their office. They have targeted Gorriti with anti-Semitic remarks.

Those pushing to jail and silence Gorriti are the same people he has investigated. They have made themselves transparent through repeated court filings. None are denying the findings made public by Gorriti and IDL-Reporteros. They just want to sweep them out of sight.

Enough is enough. The investigators are becoming the investigated. When corruption festers, civil society is at risk. That is why we are standing with Gorriti, IDL-Reporteros and freedom of the press. U.S. policymakers who care about a stable hemisphere should stand with us. To do otherwise is to send U.S. taxpayer-funded foreign aid to a country that tolerates corruption and punishes the watchdogs that call it out. People who care about Peru must insist that prosecutors drop their criminal investigation into Gorriti. Journalism is not a crime.

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