Dr. Emiliano Rolón Fernández Calle Chile y Avda. Ygatimi Asunción Paraguay

Dear Dr. Rolón,

I write to you to express my deep concern for the detention and prosecution of **Vidal Brítez** on 26 March in Paso Yobái. He is a highly regarded leader, who has been defending the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and food for a long time, playing a critical role against pollution in Paso Yobái.

Amnesty International confirmed that the prosecution is related with an incident in which Mr. Brítez did not take part, indicating that his prosecution is nothing but a reprisal for his activism. Family members are concerned about the impact of the detention in his fragile health, given the asthma condition with which he lives.

According to the international law on human rights, all states are obliged to respect and protect the right to defend human rights. Criminalising Mr. Brítez breaches this obligation and creates a chilling effect for other defenders advocating for a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Furthermore, it’s Paraguay’s international obligation to respect procedural guarantees, and the right to a fair trial.

Therefore, **I urge you to drop the charges against Mr. Brítez and respect the right to defend human rights in Paraguay.**

Yours sincerely,