

Doc. 15851

17 October 2023

Guatemala: cease undermining the peaceful transition of power and political persecution of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal

Written declaration No. 785

This written declaration commits only those who have signed it

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

We support recommendations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, regarding the Guatemalan authorities' actions to undermine the outcome of the electoral process in Guatemala and urge that this issue be reflected in the Parliamentary Assembly's upcoming report on "Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America".

We find it unacceptable that the Guatemalan Public Ministry has launched attacks against the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, including attempts to strip judges and electoral officials of their immunity, as well as raiding their offices and election storage facilities.

Such actions violate international human rights law, the Guatemalan Constitution and national legislation. We strongly condemn the political attacks targeting software developer Rafael Cordon and magistrate Irma Elizabeth Palencia, who employed Bitcoin Blockchain technology to ensure the secure preservation of election documents, preventing any unauthorised alterations, and any potential misuse of Artificial Intelligence and disinformation. These attacks must cease immediately.

Following statements by the European Union and the United States in support of the preliminary report of the Organization of American States Electoral Observation Mission, we acknowledge the benefits of employing a public verification module to authenticate official tally sheet images with Bitcoin blockchain technology that increases the certainty of the results published.

Signed (see overleaf)

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Doc. 15851 Written declaration

Signed¹:

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Total = 20

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for
 Europe SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens
 Group UEL: Group of the Unified European Left