

## World dignitaries ask justice for Peña

*The following are excerpts from some of the many letters that have been sent to the Venezuelan government on behalf of Alejandro Peña Esclusa:*

### Argentina

**Arturo Frondizi**, former President of Argentina, letter to the Venezuelan ambassador to Argentina:

... It is in the name of that hopeful future for Ibero-America, that I take the liberty of requesting that you ask President Rafael Caldera to inform me of the current legal situation of my personal friend, and secretary general of the Venezuelan Labor Party, engineer Alejandro Peña Esclusa. . . .

I know Mr. Peña and I know his moral and intellectual qualifications and the high aims of his political struggle, which is totally identified with that of Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, currently free, and on whose behalf I interceded before His Holiness John Paul II and before President Clinton, along with other world personalities, to achieve justice in the name of individual liberties and human rights.

I share the struggle Mr. Peña is waging in favor of national sovereignty and the right to life with dignity, which is no more than successfully contributing to rebuilding democracy without corruption and with social justice, a task undertaken by Dr. Caldera.

I pray that you transmit to the President my concerns, and while I await your reply in this regard, I offer my best wishes to the current administration of Venezuela and reiterate that I remain at your disposal.

### Colombia

**Jorge Carrillo**, former minister of labor, writing to Venezuelan President Caldera:

I am deeply concerned by the decision to issue an arrest warrant for Alejandro Peña Esclusa, which is an attack against the right to free speech. . . .

The only thing Peña has done is to contribute to the unity of the Venezuelan people by denouncing the crimes of corruption that the government of Venezuela wants to eradicate.

We hope that justice prevails. . . .

**Pedro Rubio**, United Federation of Workers of Bogotá and Cundinamarca-CUT, letter to President Caldera:

I have been informed about the decision taken by a judge

to incarcerate Alejandro Peña for having exposed the corrupt actions, not only of today, but going back several years, of several people who make up the Cisneros Group. . . .

Justice, Mr. President, should not fall into the hands of judges without a conscience, who are manipulated, because one runs the risk of committing errors that cannot be corrected. . . .

### Mexico

**Congressman Rufino Saucedo**, letter to Dr. Andrés Caldera, minister of the Secretary of the Presidency, Venezuela:

With profound concern I have learned of the legal situation of engineer Alejandro Peña Esclusa, who, it appears, has been indicted for reasons that are not at all clear.

I would like to state that I have been given trustworthy references regarding Mr. Peña, which lead me to believe that he is a person who has dedicated himself to fighting in the service of his countrymen. The proceeding to which he is being subjected strikes me as unjust.

Therefore, I respectfully ask you, in my capacity as a member of the Human Rights Committee of the Congress of my country, to undertake a careful legal review of the case of Mr. Peña, and to consequently reinstate him, as men such as himself who have dedicated their lives to serving humanity deserve.

### United States

**Amelia Boynton Robinson**, civil rights leader, vice chairman of the Schiller Institute, letter to the Venezuelan ambassador to the United States:

... Our leading associate in your nation, Alejandro Peña, has been unjustly and outrageously indicted for conspiracy and inciting to riot, because he dared to speak out against the power of the Cisneros family in Venezuela. I'm sure that you are aware of this situation and I ask that you move immediately to stop any further illegal action against Mr. Peña.

Time is of the essence in this matter. I trust you will do what is right.

**Rev. James L. Bevel**, civil rights leader, 1992 vice-presidential running mate of Lyndon LaRouche, letter to the Venezuelan ambassador to the United States:

It has been called to my attention that Alejandro Peña, the leader of the Schiller Institute in Venezuela, has been illegally indicted for crimes which he did not commit, and that his life has been placed in danger by the illegal actions of the Cisneros family in your nation. . . .

The charges against Mr. Peña are obviously and blatantly false. Mr. Peña has been fighting to rid Venezuela of the drug mob, and has called for justice for those who have been harmed by the bankruptcy of Cisneros' Banco Latino. It is for this that he has been unjustly targeted. . . .



Russian human rights activist Viktor Kuzin



Former Colombian Labor Minister Jorge Carrillo



U.S. civil rights leader Amelia Boynton Robinson

## Russia

**Viktor Kuzin**, former Moscow city councilman, writing on behalf of the Bureau for Human Rights Defense Without Borders to Venezuela's ambassador to Moscow:

. . . A possible criminal persecution of A. Peña is without any legal basis, and risks bringing down on the courts accusations that they are being used as a tool of political persecution. . . . As a person who in the course of my human rights activities has quite comprehensively studied the activities of this "extremist" organization, I state: All its so-called extremism consists of its absolute intolerance for criminal behavior in the economy and politics, which the example of A. Peña, co-thinker with Lyndon LaRouche, also demonstrates. I think it would not only be immoral and unjust, but also a grave political mistake to allow the repression which is very likely being prepared against Peña, at the very moment when LaRouche and his partisans in the U.S.A., thanks to the good sense of American politicians, are coming out of prison one after the other. . . .

## France

**Roger Garaudy**, former vice president of the French National Assembly, letter to the Venezuelan ambassador in France, with the request that it be sent to the relevant ministers:

I have the honor of joining the protest of a large number of Frenchmen against what we believe to be a denial of justice toward Mr. Alejandro Peña. He was initially accused of "inciting to crime," when the call to burn down a supermarket—as has been proven in the meantime—was the work of another person: Mr. Gaston Guisandes;

Mr. Peña was then accused of belonging to an "illegal association," when he was making democratic use of his freedom of expression, denouncing the responsibility of the Cisneros family in the difficulties of Banco Latino, and was defending the small depositors.

I would therefore be grateful to Your Excellency if you would communicate my protest to the relevant ministers, that of the Secretary of the Presidency, of Justice, and of Foreign Affairs.

My letter has no other aim than to prevent the image of Venezuela, which we love, from being tarnished by an attack on human rights. . . .

## Sweden

**Lars Andersson**, member of parliament from the New Democracy Party (NYD), letter to President Caldera:

. . . As I understand, these people have committed no crime but only raised questions on the handling of the Venezuelan banking crisis. This is a very, very important issue, especially today when there are many worrying signs of crisis in the international financial system which raises the need for discussion of protective measures in every nation. I have myself tried to point to the danger to the financial system posed by the enormous speculation in derivatives.

I hope that the question of political motivations of those trying to silence this important discussion is not being allowed to influence these cases and ask the government of Venezuela to see to it that Alejandro Peña and the journalists are allowed the freedom of speech in the deliberations on the solutions for the country.