

Dr. Raúl Ernesto Melara Morán
 Fiscalía General de la República (FGR)
 Edificio Farmavida
 Calle Cortéz Blanco Poniente No. 20
 Urb. Madre Selva 3
 Antiguo Cuscatlán
 San Salvador, El Salvador
 via email: xvpocasangre@fgr.gob.sv

December 24, 2019

Dear Dr. Melara:

We are dismayed to learn that **Lisiania Zelaya**, lawyer, artist and member of the Amoraes Collective, has been convicted of slander against Ricardo Mendoza and fined US\$ 2,027.

Since 2010, Amoraes Collective has been using art and drama to publicize and document repeated sexual aggression against women, artists and students that occurs regularly in the drama department of the University of El Salvador (UES).

Since 2016, artists of Amoraes have denounced Ricardo Mendoza, a professor at the School of Drama at UES, whom they accuse of abusing his female students during rehearsals of theater productions. Abusive actions, which have been condemned by present and former students, include his asking them to take off their clothes for him.

On May 27, members of the Amoraes Collective received subpoenas from the Sixth Sentencing Court of San Salvador accusing them of slander and damage to Mendoza's honor and personal reputation. The conviction of Lisiania Zelaya highlights the struggle of women against systematic, institutionalized violence.

We **strongly urge** that you

- take all action necessary to guarantee a university department free from aggression;
- ensure that immediate actions are implemented by state and university authorities to safeguard the security and integrity of students and their defenders who are endeavoring to publicize abuse and bring justice.

Sincerely,


 Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Co-Coordinators


 Christine Stonebraker-Martinez

copies: Sra. Raquel Caballero de Guevara, Ombudswoman for the Defense of Human Rights ~ via email & US mail
 Ronald Johnson, US Ambassador to El Salvador ~ via US mail
 Werner Romero, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of El Salvador in Washington, DC ~ via email and US mail
 El Salvador Desk, US State Department ~ via email
 Margarette May Macaulay, Rapporteur for El Salvador and Rapporteur on the Rights of Women, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email & US mail
 US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
 US Representatives Beatty, Fudge, Gibbs, Gonzalez, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Ryan ~ via email

The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: