

## **Pronouncement**

### **Journalists and news media of Ecuador and Colombia**

The journalists and news media of Ecuador and Colombia, present at the meeting of the IAPA in Medellin, declare our unity and solidarity with the victims of the atrocious murder of Javier Ortega, Paul Rivas and Efraín Segarra, as well as with their family members and colleagues of the newspaper *El Comercio*, and we categorically reject all violent acts against the journalists and social communicators of the region.

From the IAPA we request transparency, clarity and full access to the information handled by the governments of Colombia and Ecuador, at the same time we request the accompaniment of these two governments to formulate strategies that guarantee the safety of our journalistic work which translates into freedom of the press and of expression.

The best homage to the journalists who lost their lives is to continue with their work on the border. That is why we news media of Ecuador and Colombia are going to continue coverage on the state of public order on the common border.

Finally, the IAPA announces that it will bring forth a process of accompaniment and observation of the handling of information that is being carried out in this case, especially by the new journalistic work team that has been created in Medellin to investigate and disseminate the reality of the Colombia-Ecuador border.

Medellin, April 14, 2018