



With disappointment and heightened suspicion, we express concern and solidarity with journalists and political activists in Argentina, specifically Carlos Aznarez and Ruben Saboulard, who were accused of acts of “discrimination” and “anti-Semitism” after speaking out about Israel’s attack on Palestinians in Gaza at a rally in Buenos Aires in August 2014.

No public account of the charges documents any anti-Semitic, anti-Jewish or racist comments made by the speakers, rather, only their critiques of Israeli state racism and Israel’s unabashed and violently aggressive attack on Palestinians in Gaza. An Argentine organization, the Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations (DAIA), which is a strong political supporter of the Israeli government and its policies brought a private complaint against Aznarez and Saboulard, with the assistance of the Buenos Aires district attorney.

Aznarez, the editor of Resumen Latinoamericano, only became aware of the charges after receiving notice from Google that his emails, and those of his publication, were being sought by an Argentine prosecutor without a court order. At the time, Aznarez had no defense lawyer and was entirely unaware that he was being charged at all, yet his emails and his privacy of correspondence were being threatened, especially as a journalist who daily deals with sensitive sources.

The National Lawyers Guild International Committee expresses its solidarity with Carlos Aznarez and Ruben Saboulard, in challenging these measures against their freedom of expression and association, and view them as attempts to silence journalists, media workers and political leaders through intimidation and persecution, and the threat of loss of privacy in communications.

In particular, we note that freedom of expression and freedom of the press are enshrined in Article 14 of the Argentine Constitution, as well as Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and we view this attempt to prosecute Aznarez as a violation of both the UDHR and the Argentine constitution that threatens all media workers. We are also very concerned about any involvement by the United States or the state of Israel in the suppression of the rights of Argentine journalists. We are aware of previous incidents of U.S. pressure and intervention in the Argentine justice system and reject all attempts by the U.S. and Israel to influence or undermine the rights of journalists, media workers or other Argentines.

Further, we view the attempts to use the courts to falsely portray Palestine solidarity as anti-Semitic as part of a global strategy to defend the Israeli state from criticism or prosecution for its war crimes against the Palestinian people, whether in Argentina, where Aznarez and Saboulard are targeted ; in France, where boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) organizers are facing criminal prosecutions for boycotting Israeli goods ; and in the United States, where new legislation is being proposed in an attempt to block the growing international movement to hold Israel accountable through BDS.