

Attack on Cuban Blogger Draws Condemnation

Yoani Sánchez honored as Hero of the Hemisphere in October

Washington, D.C., November 10, 2009 – The Pan American Development Foundation joins other international and human rights organizations in condemning the recent attack on the award-winning Cuban blogger Yoani Sánchez.

“No one can stand by when persons become victims of vicious attacks simply when expressing their opinions that are different from those of a government,” says Marc Wachtenheim, Director of the Pan American Development Foundation's Cuba Development Initiative. “We are compelled to add our support to the many voices around the world that condemn this act of violence against Yoani and her fellow bloggers.”

PADF, a non-partisan, non-profit organization, honored Yoani in absentia on October 24 at its *Heroes of the Hemisphere* celebration in Miami. One of five honorees from four countries, Yoani was recognized for her blog, *Generación Y*, which details the frustrations of daily life in Cuba. *Generación Y* receives more than one million visitors each month and is translated into 15 languages. www.HeroesoftheHemisphere.org

Yoani, along with fellow bloggers Orlando Luis Pardo and Claudia Cadelo, were walking in Havana to a peaceful demonstration against violence when they were detained on Friday, November 6. She was forced into an unmarked car, beaten and threatened.

According to news accounts, Yoani says that the terrifying incident will not deter her from writing for her blog, *Generación Y*.

The Inter-American Democratic Charter, adopted by the Organization of American States (OAS) in 2001, requires respect for human rights.

About PADF

PADF is an independent, non-profit organization that creates partnerships that assist the least advantaged people in Latin America and the Caribbean. PADF primary areas of work are economic development, enhancing civil society and responding to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

Having worked in every country in the hemisphere, PADF engages community-based groups, governments and the private sector in the process of implementing solutions for sustainable development. Founded in 1962, PADF is an affiliate of the Organization of American States (OAS).

In the past year, PADF's programs assisted more than 5.6 million people in 18 countries.
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