



STATEMENT

Ongoing Detention of Critical Voices: Cristosal Raises Alarm Over the Arrest of Lawyer Enrique Anaya

San Salvador, June 7, 2025. Today, constitutional lawyer Salvador Enrique Anaya Barraza was arrested. His detention occurs amid a growing pattern of criminalization against those who have spoken out about the deterioration of the rule of law in El Salvador.

Recently, Anaya denounced irregularities in the detention of our colleague, lawyer Ruth López, as well as in the judicial decision to hold her in pretrial detention. He publicly highlighted violations of basic rights such as the right to defense, access to information, and due process guarantees.

Enrique Anaya has been a key figure in defending democratic institutions and constitutional order. Drawing on his legal expertise, he has filed lawsuits before national and international bodies, challenging laws passed by the current Legislative Assembly and rulings that violate fundamental principles. Through articles, interviews, and public forums, he has been a critical voice against authoritarianism and the concentration of power.

Anaya's arrest cannot be separated from this context of retaliation against those who exercise their right to speak out, criticize, and defend legality based on the Constitution.

We demand that Salvadoran authorities act in accordance with the Constitution and international treaties, and fully guarantee the rights and due process protections of Enrique Anaya. We also alert the international community to this troubling escalation of attacks, arbitrary detentions, and criminalization of critical, independent, and organized voices who continue to defend legality, human rights, and democracy in El Salvador.