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NATIONAL WRITERS UNION

June 29, 2021

Dear Mr John V. Tamborelli,

The National Writers Union (NWU) has received a complaint from our member, Aitana Vargas, about potential threats made by you against her concerning an investigative article she has published.

NWU takes any attempt to silence or threaten any journalist, especially a woman journalist, extremely seriously. We want to remind you that a free press is enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution and is at the heart of any democratic society. Interfering with the freedom of expression and freedom of the press is not only illegal but runs against the grain of a free and open society.

We would also point out that while any confidential source may retract their story at any time, even under coercion, they have no legal standing to demand that any article be taken down. We ask that you cease any future acts of intimidation against our member.

Ms. Vargas has the support of NWU, which is an affiliate of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), which has 170 member-unions in 140 countries, representing 600,000 journalists around the world.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mauricio Niebla
National Writers Union