

ECA STATEMENT: COMPLAINT AGAINST PERUVIAN JOURNALIST PEDRO SALINAS FOR DEFAMATION, PRESENTED BY ARCHBISHOP OF PIURA JOSÉ ANTONIO EGUREN ANSELMI (PERÚ)

On August 15th, Archbishop of Piura José Antonio Eguren Anselmi filed a complaint against peruvian journalist Pedro Salinas for aggravated defamation, claiming a “smear campaign” against him and requiring a reparation of \$60,000 USD. This offence carries a penalty involving deprivation of liberty for three years.

In view of this, Ending Clergy Abuse (ECA), as a worldwide organization of human rights’ activists and survivors who focus on children’s and victims’ rights, especially child sexual abuse, states:

1. We support the investigative work of Pedro Salinas, peruvian journalist who has been using his constitutional right of free speech to research and publish about the abuses perpetrated by Luis Fernando Figari, founder of “Sodalicio de Vida Cristiana” (SVC), who is accused of aggravated kidnapping, illicit association to commit offences and psychic harm against children who belonged to SVC².
2. We state that the complaint filed by Archbishop of Piura, as a founding member of SVC, is an intimidation to victims that we can not accept. This is an attitude and strategy we have seen before in cases of clergy abuse, in particular, by one of the chilean priests, Fernando Karadima.
3. This attitude, shows Eguren’s denial to be co-responsible for the abuses of power that took place in SVC; he’s been identified as a participant of incidents of physical and psychological abuse of underlings.
4. We compel ecclesiastical authorities to end this harmful behaviour of intimidation, where the accused clergy, instead of working to prove their innocence, threaten victims, perpetuating the culture of abuse and cover-up within the Church.
5. We also compel Judicial Power authorities from Perú to protect and guarantee Justice and Truth in this case, and in every case where integrity and dignity of peruvian people have been violated.

Ending Clergy Abuse ECA – Tuesday, August 21st, 2018

1 “Caso Sodalicio: obispo denuncia a Pedro Salinas por difamación agravada”, El Comercio, Perú: [Noticia El Comercio](#)

2 “Obispo denuncia a Pedro Salinas, el periodista que destapó el caso de abusos en el Sodalicio”, La Mula, Perú: [Noticia La Mula](#)

3 “Pedro Salinas dice que la denuncia del Obispo Eguren es sintomática”, La República, Perú: [Noticia La República](#)