February 4, 2020

Dear Minister Gutiérrez Ortiz Mena,

We write to express our strong support for Professor Sergio Aguayo. We have recently learned that he has been facing unjustified attacks on his integrity, including various legal charges that have been pursued in your courts. We wish to attest to our full confidence in Professor Aguayo and convey our hope that the matter will be speedily resolved so that he can continue his work as an esteemed public intellectual.

For six years, Professor Aguayo has been a highly valued visiting senior fellow at our Center, the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University. During this time, we have collaborated on a range of scholarly projects. He has also taught classes, led seminars and engaged in the development of significant research initiatives.

Throughout this time, we have enormously valued his annual presence. He is a brilliant, erudite and dynamic scholar, with tremendous integrity. His scholarship is very widely respected for its depth, insight and acuity. We also greatly respect his deep personal integrity and his transparent commitment to justice and the rule of law.

We are most distressed by the attacks to which he has been subjected. We hope he will be cleared of all wrongdoing promptly, so that he can, without interference, pursue the critically important work to which he has so fearlessly committed his working life.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Yours truly,

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
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