



**CHRIO**

**CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

*Reclaiming Human Dignity . Protecting Fundamental Human Rights*

Toronto, Ontario, June 17, 2016

## **To Whom it May Concern**

**RE: Introduction to Calixto Suarez Villafañe, Director Human Rights Program of Indigenous Peoples at Canadian Human Rights International Organization CHRIO**

My name is Mario Guilombo, Founder Human Rights Program and International Missions Director for the Canadian Human Rights International Organization (CHRIO), and I wanted to give you a brief background on our organization. We are a non-profit organization created in 2003, founded by and made up of professionals from various academic backgrounds, including Law, Social Work, Sociology, Psychology and Criminology. At CHRIO, our objective is to contribute to the defence, promotion, education, protection and realization of Human Rights, both civil and political. We also aim to fight against discrimination, racism, impunity and to defend the fundamental rights of citizens both in Canada and abroad.

### **History**

Founded in 2003, the **Canadian Human Rights International Organization (CHRIO)** is a non-profit organization located in the heart of the vibrant Jane and Finch community. We work in the field of human right issues and support hundreds of victims of armed conflict, refugees, displaced persons, and their relatives that were unable to leave their countries of origin. We function without a steady source of funding and rely on the generosity of donations and a very passionate and dedicated team of professional volunteers. We have continued to grow and now have close to 490 international missions.

### **Mission**

The mission of CHRIO is to defend and fight for fundamental rights such as life, dignity, liberty, security and gender equality. Our organization helps fight against all forms of discrimination such as race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental disabilities in accordance to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set forth by the United Nations. CHRIO recognizes and upholds the human right laws enacted by the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations in Canada and abroad by:

**"If I help one person to have hope, will not have lived in vain" Martin Luther King Jr.**  
1725 Finch Avenue West, Toronto ON M3N 1M6; Tel: 416 635 7805; website:www.chiro.ca



# CHRIO

## CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

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- Educating the public through the provision of courses, workshops, and seminars on matters relating to human rights.
- Researching issues relating to human rights and the people we serve.
- Assisting individuals in bringing their complaints before the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal and the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.
- Relieving poverty through the provision of basic amenities to refugees, immigrants and others in need.
- To provide counselling, education, and other support services to immigrants and refugees, including language instruction, employment training, job search programs, translation services, and information/assistance on Canadian culture and life.

### **Objectives**

CHRIO seeks to materialize the truth, justice and complete reparation for serious violations of human rights, through legal and political actions at the international, national and local level in countries where human rights have been systematically violated.

We work for the complete affirmation of the rights of people through the formation, organization, denouncing, and realization of legal and political actions at the local, national and international level in coordination with other organizations defending human rights.

### **Programs we offer and Populations we serve**

We have helped and assisted **over 14,000 clients** free of charge. The clients we assist are from our local communities, citizens from across Canada and people from around the world who have little or no access to human rights resources or the funds to access these resources. We are the helping hand to those people that are dealing with human rights violations within and outside of Canada. Some of the programs we have organized and implemented are:

- Human Rights Defence Program
- Youth Human Rights Program
- Mental Health Program with free counselling sessions for clients
- Pardon & Waiver Program
- Seniors Program
- Student Placement Programs for University & College Students

Now that you have a brief introduction to what CHRIO is all about, we would like to formally introduce you to Mr. Calixto Suarez Villafañe, Director Human Rights Program of Indigenous Peoples at Canadian Human Rights International Organization CHRIO.

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**Calixto Suarez Villafañe** is our representative on the ground who oversees a team of human rights defenders who follow our mission, vision and values to defend and fight for fundamental rights such as life, dignity, liberty, security and gender equality for the indigenous people.

Calixto Suarez Villafañe is a first nation leader and human rights defender, Colombia. Due to his strong commitment to social justice, Calixto has worked vigorously to improve the lives of people in need as well as victims of Human Rights violations in Colombia and around the world through his social work and community service. His first nations leadership is recognized in our organization.

**Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our organization and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in contact with me at [mguilombo@chrio.ca](mailto:mguilombo@chrio.ca) or phone at 416-635-7805.**

**Yours Sincerely,**



Mario Guilombo

Founder and Human Rights Program & International Missions Director

Canadian Human rights International Organization - CHRIO

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