



Latin American International Coalition of Atheists

PO Box 362575 | San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-2575

Immediately Release: Atheists from Latin America Disaffiliated and Disassociated from Atheists Alliance International

To: Atheists Alliance International Inc.

May 21, 2022

By this means, we want to inform you that the Atheists, Humanists, and Freethinkers of Latin America affiliated with your Atheist Alliance International Organization registered in the State of California of the United States immediately disassociate ourselves from any link with your Atheist Alliance International Organization, including all affiliations and representation of our Spanish-speaking countries.

First: We cannot be part of an organization where President Howard Burman was accommodating the transition to his successor the new President David Orenstein, before the elections, who announced himself as an elected board member a day early of the AGM on social media. Our countries and peoples fight daily against corruption and mismanagement of our governments; we will not allow secular organizations to be part of such practices, including a president accommodating his successor four months ahead of a general election (AGM) and letting him participate in monthly board member meetings without holding a position on the board.

Second: For consecutive years, your organization has lacked transparency and democracy in its elections and practices. Violating fundamental ethical canons, its statutes of the board of directors, and the own rules/regulations of the State of California stipulate how non-profit organizations should operate to maintain good standing. Your organization is not complying with such practices in a board of directors elections, operation, policies, procedures, bylaws, and financial management. Without mentioning in detail that the IRS removes the exemptions to your organization AAI for about two years for not complying with filing, and your "At Large Board" decides not to inform donors.

Third: It is to our knowledge that Google's invitation to attend the meeting was made after the new board of directors had already been formed, as our representative, Shirley Rivera, received an email with the names of those elected who have been nominated by the current "At Large Directors" board about a month earlier of the AAI general meeting (AGM).

These candidates were selected and interviewed by Howard, Bill, Fotis, and Jason "At Large Directors". At the same time, Latin American organizations have not received a ballot to nominate candidates for the board of directors or even a ballot with the candidates to choose.

Fourth: During the general elections last year, as you know, no Latin American country was present at the AGM because we were never invited or notified. After the elections, our regional director Shirley Rivera asked why the groups she represented were not present? And why had they not been told of the elections or voting? The secretary/treasurer Mr. Fotis Frangopoulos replied that he accidentally forgot to include us in the invitation email. He added that we were not affiliated with "voting rights," only to participation rights "because of the bylaws." Our question now: Why do affiliate groups that do not have the right to elect their representatives?

We Latin American International Coalition of Atheist and our representative Ms. Shirley Rivera disaffiliate ourselves from your organization and demand that your organization is dissolved until a committee can be created that can democratically raise a legitimately elected board of directors from scratch. Atheist Alliance International must cease operations until it complies with the canons and regulations of the election of the board of directors as provided by the State of California. We also require that the nomination of candidates and the ballots be handled and received by an external committee that can evaluate and validate the nominations and the elected candidates next time. Therefore, we declare the 2021 and 2022 elections INVALID.

Best,

-Latin American International Coalition of Atheists

Undersigned: Asociación de Ateos de Bogotá (Colombia); Ateístas de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico); Ateísmo Brillante (México); Asociación Peruana de Ateos-Aperat (Perú); Corporación Bogotá para el Avance de la Razón y la Laicidad – Bogotá Atea (Colombia); Humanistas Guatemala (Guatemala); Yo soy ateo y qué! (México).