

# A SARI



To:

The Organization of American States Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO),  
Director Gerardo de Icaza, [gdeicaza@oas.org](mailto:gdeicaza@oas.org)

The Organization of American States Secretariat for Strengthening of Democracy,  
Secretary Francisco Guerrero, [fguerrero@oas.org](mailto:fguerrero@oas.org)

The Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR),  
Executive Secretary Tania Reneaum Panszi [treneaum@oas.org](mailto:treneaum@oas.org)

Subject:

Request for Guidance and Support Regarding Constitutional Court Ruling on Exorbitant, and Excessively High Election Deposit Requirements in Suriname

Dear Director, dear Secretaries,

Warm greetings from the Republic of Suriname!

In addition to the letters submitted to the OAS, by the Surinamese political party DA'91 on 23 December 2024, and the Surinamese political party PVP on 6 January 2025, the undersigned, Dr. Ruben F. del Prado, Chair of the Surinamese political party 597 Netwerken, respectfully requests your guidance and support considering the recent ruling by the Surinamese Constitutional Court. This ruling declared the deposit requirement for participation in the upcoming general elections as "undemocratic" and, due to insufficient justification, a violation of the constitutional right of qualifying Surinamese political parties to participate freely in national elections. However, despite this, Parliament officially enforced the requirement last week, on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

As one of the financially less resilient political parties, we find the ‘waarborgsom’ (security deposit) endorsed by the Surinamese National Assembly to be unreasonably high, and a significant barrier to our participation in our country’s democratic process. This requirement poses a severe threat to the principle of equal opportunity in our upcoming general elections on May 25, 2025. Quoting DA’91 in its letter to the OAS: “...the proposed amount its true aim is exclusion of political parties, making it impossible for them to exercise their constitutional right to participate in elections as well as withhold the community the right and opportunity to vote for other parties aside from those already in the National Assembly.” Note, that, by law, it is forbidden for political organizations to form pre-electoral coalitions, while there are no laws governing financing of political organizations.

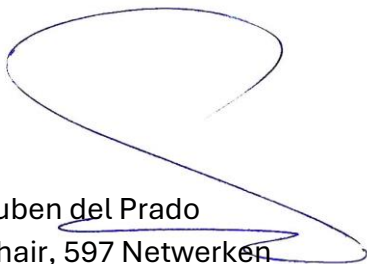
Nevertheless, and considering the above, on behalf of the board and members of 597 Netwerken, we declare and pledge that we will under no circumstances accept illegal or suspicious funding, including money that would necessitate repayment through political favors, while we remain steadfast in our commitment to uphold democratic principles and integrity.

Our primary concern is that this excessive financial requirement will hinder the participation of less affluent political parties in the upcoming free and fair elections, which are based on the principle of one person, one vote, and one value. Such a barrier jeopardizes the fundamental democratic rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Surinamese Constitution.

We urgently appeal to the OAS for guidance and support in safeguarding Surinamese democracy. Your esteemed counsel and intervention are vital to protecting our right to participate freely and fairly in elections, thereby upholding the democratic principles we all hold dear.

We look forward to your valued response and assistance in this crucial matter.

Kind regards,



Ruben del Prado  
Chair, 597 Netwerken

Paramaribo, 14 January 2025

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