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August 14, 2017

The Honorable Jorge Faurie, Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religion
Esmeralda 1212
City of Buenos Aires C1007ABR
Republic of Argentina
Via electronic delivery and international air mail
info@cancilleria.gob.ar

Re.: Petition to Recall the Honorable Felipe Alvarez de Toledo, Ambassador of the
Republic of Argentina to Bucharest

Your Excellency:

Since May I have written a number of messages to your Ministry and the Argentine Embassy to Bucharest protesting the endorsement by the Argentine Ambassador to Romania, the Honorable Felipe Alvarez de Toledo, of a Joint Declaration in support of the Pride Parade which took place in Bucharest in May of this year. To date, there has been no response.

My communications have been discrete and private. When the Embassy and the Foreign Ministry failed to respond, distance themselves from the Ambassador's action, or confirm that Argentina will not engage in this type of behavior in the future, I made my plea known to the public. We also informed the people of Romania of Argentina's offending action and many Romanian citizens have addressed notes of protest to your Ministry and the Embassy as well, requesting in respectful terms an apology or the assurance that Argentina will not meddle again in Romania's internal affairs.

In spite of our respectful pleas, no response has been forthcoming.

I am attaching a Petition to Recall the Honorable Felipe Alvarez de Toledo, Ambassador of the Republic of Argentina to Bucharest. The Petition is signed by over 100 prominent Romanian intellectuals, attorneys, community and business leaders, leaders of various nongovernmental organizations, journalists, media personalities, current or former politicians, and influential persons in Romania, as well as nongovernmental organizations.

We continue to express friendship and utmost respect for the people of Argentina.

However, in a spirit of mutual respect and friendship, we request a positive response to our previous pleas and to the pleas listed in the Petition. Please do so no later than Monday, September 4, 2017. Should there be no response, we will prepare a boycott of Argentina's businesses and products in Romania. We certainly hope to avoid escalating this matter to that level. However, the sovereign people of Romania deserve respect, Argentina undermined it, and Argentina is called upon to restore it.

Respectfully submitted,

BY: 
Peter Costea, Attorney at Law

encl.

PC/my

cc:

The Honorable Felipe Alvarez de Toledo
Ambassador of the Republic of Argentina to Bucharest
Union International Center
Str. Ion Campianu Nr. 11, Third Floor, Suite 301
Bucharest, ROMANIA
Via electronic delivery and international air mail
eruma@cancilleria.gob.ar

PETITION TO RECALL THE HONORABLE FELIPE ALVAREZ DE TOLEDO, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA TO BUCHAREST

August 14, 2017

TO: The Honorable Jorge Faurie, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion of the Republic of
Argentina

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship
Esmeralda 1212
City of Buenos Aires C1007ABR
Republic of Argentina
Via electronic delivery and international air mail

Your Excellency:

The undersigned are Romanian intellectuals, community and business leaders, leaders of various nongovernmental organizations, journalists, media personalities, current or former politicians, and influential persons in Romania. We address this Petition to you with utmost respect in the hope that you will consider the immediate recall of The Republic of Argentina's current Ambassador to Romania, the Honorable Felipe Alvarez de Toledo. The grounds for the removal are serious and compelling.

In May, the Honorable Ambassador signed, along with ambassadors from a host of countries, a Declaration in support of the pride parade which took place in Bucharest on May 20, 2017. This unfortunate action on the part of the Argentine Ambassador is unacceptable at several levels.

First, the action of the Argentine Ambassador offended 25 million Romanians worldwide, primarily in Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Western Europe, and North America. It blotted our national dignity and undermined our national sovereignty. It accused the people of Romania, more or less directly, of homophobia and transphobia. This presumption is not only inaccurate, but utterly unwarranted. It amounts to impermissible stereotyping and stigmatizes all Romanians collectively as a nation. We are a deeply religious and traditional nation and request that our feelings be respected.

Second, we do not believe that it is the role of the Argentine Ambassador or of Argentina to pass judgment on the feelings or views citizens of other countries have with respect to various issues. The issue to which the Ambassador's signature lent support in the Declaration is not black and white, but one on which fair minded people respectfully differ. By officially throwing his weight and the weight of Argentina behind the Declaration, the Ambassador and Argentina implicitly condemned those who dare express a different view on a highly moral and controversial issue. The role of an Ambassador is to connect states qua states, and communicate matters of mutual concern between them. It is not to lecture the people of a foreign nation in matters of morality and on which rational people differ.

Third, the signing of the Declaration conveys a position of superiority, implying that in this case the Ambassador or Argentina stand on higher moral ground and can, on account of this moral superiority, lecture the people of Romania. We believe that this is highly inappropriate and offensive. We are of the opinion that Argentina is not in a position to lecture Romania or the rest of the world in matters of human rights and tolerance. Argentina has enough problems of its own, including political corruption and human rights abuses, then be concerned with what goes on in Romania.

Fourth, the signing of the Declaration violates the 1963 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. The signature is incompatible, among others, with Article 3(e) of the Convention which limits an

ambassador's role to "promoting friendly relations between the sending State and the receiving State, and developing their economic, cultural and scientific relations." The Argentine Ambassador's conduct was unwise and violative of his clearly stated role under the Convention.

In closing, we have a plea to make and it is submitted respectfully. We are asking that Argentina recall His Excellency, Felipe Alvarez de Toledo as Ambassador to Romania, and that Argentina retract the Ambassador's signature from the Declaration. Please also ensure that in the future Argentina refrains from taking positions or signing any Declarations or statements related to Romania's internal affairs or pass judgment, either explicitly or implicitly, on the positions which its citizens take on matters of conscience and conviction. Romanians do not tell the Argentine people how to live their lives or pass judgment on the state of human rights in their country. Romanians expect no less from the Argentine people and its Ambassador.

We are aware that in recent months similar attempts were made by private means and neither the Ambassador nor your Ministry responded. We hope tangible action will soon ensue.

We close by assuring you of our deep friendship and respect for the people of Argentina.

List of Signatories - Individuals

1. Peter Costea, Attorney, Houston, Texas
2. Gabriela Lucuta, Attorney, Ontario, Canada
3. Rodica Lixandru, Medical Doctor, Arges
4. Dr. Joseph Ton, Theologian and Writer, Portland, Oregon
5. Mihail Neamtu, PhD, Writer, Bucharest
6. Daniel Goicovici, Professor, Hunedoara
7. Mironela Goicovici, Professor, Hunedoara
8. Lucian Oniga, President, Fundatia Peniel
9. Mihai Gheorghiu, Writer
10. Steven V. Bonica, Publisher (Romanian Tribune Media), Chicago
11. Catalin Vasile, Engineer, Bucuresti
12. Dan A. Botica, Ph D, Professor, Oradea
13. Pavel Chirila, Writer
14. Ioan Ciobota, Media Personality, RVE, Timisoara
15. Dr. Ioan Stir, Professor, Houston, Texas
16. David Ille, Medical Doctor, Cluj

17. Daniel Firiza, Co-Founder, Uniunea Crestina Italia, Italy
18. Ludmila A. Stan, Medical Doctor, Italy
19. John Ciorba, Media Director, Romanian Times, Portland, Oregon
20. Father Marius Visovan, Professor, Sighetu Marmatiei
21. Bogdan Stanciu, President, Pro Vita Bucuresti
22. Vinicius Sabau, Technology Consultant, Chicago
23. Dennis Stoia, Financial Consultant, Chicago
24. Rev. Cristian Ionescu, Community Leader, Chicago
25. Sorin Leahu, Attorney, Chicago
26. Valentin Rada, Law Professor, Attorney, California
27. Dragos Boscoianu, Attorney, Chicago
28. Vasile Maciuc, Ph D, Professor, Ion Ionescu de la Brad University, Iasi
29. Emanuel Grozea, Community Leader, New York
30. Marcel Lutic, Etnographer, Iasi
31. Gerda Chisarau, Professor, Timisoara
32. Ioan Chisarau, Priest and Community Leader, Timisoara
33. John Sinitean, Engineer, Chicago
34. Daniel Cotrau, Attorney, Arad
35. Lavinia Cotrau, Economist, Arad
36. Dr. Peter Cocirteu, DLT.DH, Founder, Romanian Evangelical Alliance USA and Canada
37. Sergiu Burca, Architect, Houston, Texas
38. Monica Burca, Attorney, Houston, Texas
39. Ilie Filip, Horticulture Engineer, Cluj
40. Ilie Adina, Psychologist, Cluj
41. George Nadaban, Medical Doctor, Houston, Texas
42. Claudiu Cimpean, Ph D, Professor, Houston, Texas

43. Stefan Motec, Attorney, Timisoara
44. Mirel Talpes, Resident, International Needs Romania, Arad
45. Tiberius Rata, Ph.D., Professor, Winona Lake, Indiana
46. Vasilica Croitor, Chief Editor, Succeed Publishing
47. Valentin Lixandru, Manager, Bucuresti
48. Andrei Elena, Teacher, Buzau
49. Grigore Arbore Popescu, Ph D, Writer and Senior Scientist / Chief Technology Officer - Emeritus
50. Alina Marini, Translator, Arad
51. Doina Ille, Pharmacist, Cluj
52. Andrei Ille, Software Developer, Cluj
53. Aurelian Axinte Fisca, Director Alpha Romania, Targu Mures
54. Tony-Leonard Farauanu, Software Engineer, Cluj
55. Miorita Sateanu, Engineer, Predinte de Onoare, Uniunea Femeilor din Bihor
56. Vasile Moraru, Rezistenta Crestina, Cluj
57. Victor Roncea, Journalist, Bucuresti
58. Bogdan Ciprian, Consultant, Council of Europe, Alba
59. Mircea Rostat, Roma Leader
60. Cristian Rata, PhD, Profesor, Seoul, South Korea
61. Virgil Nemoianu, Prof. Dr. H.C., Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy, Member of the European Academy for Arts and Sciences
62. Ioan Ardelean, Community Leader, Bistrita
63. Nicoleta Burtic, Media Personality and Journalist, RVE, Oradea
64. Paul Elmann, Lawyer, Brussels
65. Vasile D. Bercian, Jurnalist, Zalău
66. Robert Florin Dinca, IT Engineer, Bucuresti
67. Timotei Dinica, Media Consultant, Bucuresti
68. David Tut, Media Consultant, Timisoara

69. Anamaria Hontau, Professor
70. Marcel Hontau, Medical Professional
71. Adrian Cotoi, Engineer, Ontario, Canada
72. Eugenia Keresztes, Engineer, Zalău
73. Alina Ion, Corporate Treasury Analyst, Ireland
74. Leonard Daniel Ion, Roma Leader, Fetesti
75. Patricia Runca, Profesor, Timisoara
76. Remus Runcan, Community Activist, Timisoara
77. Ioan Panica, President, Forumul Civic Crestin din Romania
78. Liviu Petrina, President, Societatea Crestin-Democrata Jaques Maritain din Romania
79. Vasile Tofan, President, Asociatia Urim si Tumim
80. Laura Sigarteu-Petrina, Advisor, Asociatia Casa Gratis Pro Deo
81. Nicolae Moigradan, Engineer, Zalau
82. Cristian P. Balan, Writers Union, Chicago
83. Sen. Vioral Duca
84. Elena Livia Ologeanu, Translator, Sibiu
85. Leonard D. Ologeanu, Engineer, Sibiu
86. Virgiliu Gheorghe Vlăescu, Writer, Bucharest
87. Mitroi Corina, Professor, Resita
88. Valentin Samuel Bosneac, Medical Doctor, Family Medicine, Otelu Rosu
89. Maria Goron, Medical Doctor, Cluj
90. Luminita Smantana, Business Leader, Iasi
91. Pavel Smantana, Business Leader, Iasi
92. Liviu Cananau, Engineer, Waterloo, Canada
93. Paraschiva Danciu, Economist, Bucuresti

Nongovernmental Organizations

Alliance of Romania's Families

Fundatia Peniel

Prodocens Media

AULA (Asociatia Urmasilor Luptatorilor Anticomunisti)

Asociatia Mesterilor Populari din Moldova

Asociatia Darul Vietii

Fundatia Clinica Pro-Vita

Uniunea Femeilor din Bihor

Romanian American Coalition for the Family

Romanian-American Network, Chicago

Asociatia Casa Nadejdei, Aiud

Romanian American Evangelical Alliance

Presedinte Asociatia „Urim si Tumim”

Asociatia Casa Pro-Deo

Societatea Crestin-Democrata Jaques Maritain din Romania

Forumul Civic Crestin din Romania

Asociatia Centrul Cultural al Romilor, Fetesti

Asociația Down Art Therapy, Targu Jiu

Asociația PRO VITA, București

Asociația Persoanelor cu Deficiențe de Auz „Darul Sunetului”, București