



30 April 2007

Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba
Minister of the Interior
Complejo de la Moncloa
Avda. Puerta de Hierro
s/n. 28071 Madrid
España

Dear Minister,

I write to you as the Chairman of the International Council of Police Representative Associations (ICPRA). This is an international group of Police Association leaders representing national Police Associations in Great Britain, Denmark, US, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Included in this group are most of the major national Police Associations in the English-speaking world.

One of our primary goals is to ensure that Police Officers throughout the world have the right to democratically associate and to advocate for better working conditions and salaries. It is our belief that only by professionalising and remunerating Police forces and services will the public gain the necessary respect and confidence in their Police.

All Police Associations around the world have undergone considerable struggles to gain the right to associate and form associations invariably the people who have gained most from such rights being achieved have been the public of the countries whose Police have become more professionalised.

We noted that one of your Police Associations, the AUGC has recently been involved in public action in an endeavour to improve the conditions of service of their members it is our understanding that disciplinary action is being considered against those who attended the rally in uniform. On behalf of the ICPRA Executive I respectfully request any disciplinary action being contemplated against these members be discontinued.

As each of our associations was formed, and similar disciplinary actions were implemented, the result was a poor relationship between the authorities and the rank and file Police. This ultimately proves detrimental in the long term. We fully acknowledge the right of your Government to take whatever action it wishes and in no way seek to impinge on your sovereignty.



On behalf of the over 1 million officers we represent worldwide, we would ask that you take long term view of the actions of the AUGC and do not discipline these members who wore uniform. ICPRA would be very pleased to become involved in any negotiations in a broking role if you believed that it was appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Greg O'Connor
Chairman
ICPRA