



For immediate publication
July 23, 2019

STATEMENT

San Juan – The Board of Directors of the Journalists Association of Puerto Rico (Asppro, by the Spanish acronym) condemns Governor Ricardo Rossello Nevares' refusal to respond to multiple requests for interviews by the Puerto Rican press choosing to do so with the U.S. television network Fox News instead of being available to inform and report to its constituents.

Since Rossello Nevares disclosed that he would not resign on the grounds that he made an introspection and had a private legal opinion that concluded the Telegram chat did not constitute crimes, he has not had any public appearance.

The secretary of Public Affairs Anthony Madeira's instructions to journalists are that all requests must be in writing and, although he has been asked for statements by the governor, the governor so far has not offered interviews or called press conferences to answer questions since that day. However, on Monday the 22th the governor had time for an interview with Fox News.

At the current historical juncture, it seems unacceptable to us that the governor has chosen to ignore the media dedicated to informing its constituents to give preference to English speaking media that broadcasts to the United States. If you are interested in keeping your People informed, this is where you must talk.

In addition, since he arrived from his trip to Europe more than a week ago, the governor has issued very few statements – through press releases or a Facebook Live – that do not give the opportunity to ask him questions about the historical events that continue to unfold before us, the country, our diaspora and the world.

The governor needs to remember that when he swore to defend the constitution and the laws of Puerto Rico, he assumed the representation of the People promising to respect the democratic processes, which includes the right to freedom of the press and access to public information.

We will continue to use all the necessary mechanisms to provide our People with the information they are entitled to, deserve and need, and reaffirm our commitment to inform the truth.

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