

Chale Guadamuz – Executive Director – The Hague Peace Projects.

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Transcript:

My name is Chale, and I am the director of The Hague Peace Projects. Not long ago though, was in living in Nicaragua and working as an environmentalist, dealing with the destruction that corporations and greed have brought to our country.

On 2018 my country went into an uprising against Dictator Daniel Ortega, in the efforts of getting back to a state of democracy. This led to countless deaths, imprisonments and all kinds of violations of human rights.

That year Nicaragua went down 54 spaces in the International Peace Index, the largest drop that year.

A year ago I came to The Hague as part of a mission from our civil society, to look for help and information, about international mechanisms that could be used to cease the violent repression that was happening in my country.

As of today, Nicaragua has not yet ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which means that there is not much that the ICC can do for Nicaragua at the moment. As of today, Dictator Daniel Ortega, accused for crimes against humanity, remains in power.

As a Nicaraguan citizen, I recognize the need for States to adopt the statutes of Rome, and guarantee safety, peace and justice for all their people. I also recognize the need for international mechanisms like the ICC, to have a greater capacity for action.

The approval of the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime for example, which is a comprehensive EU version of the Magnitsky Act, which sadly does not include kleptocracy as reasons for sanctions to be applied, it is nevertheless a huge victory in the pursuit and use of effective non-violent, international peace keeping mechanisms.

As director of The Hague Peace Projects I not only endorse and support the work of the ICC and the Coalition for the ICC, but I also reiterate our commitment to collaborate and work with integrity in the pursuit of a safer and better world for all.

I hope that today you see clearly the challenges we are facing... things like climate destruction the rampant violations of human rights, are the main things that we need to take care, and honor a commitment we made to stop them.

I trust that today, you will all remember, just like I do every day, that we have a duty to the people we serve, the the people we vowed to protect, and ultimately, to the values we say we hold.