
August 28, 2018
Paris, France

Dr Rolando Alfonso Martel Chang, President
Superior Court of Lima

RE : Eviction of the National Archives of Peru from the Superior Court of Lima Premises

Dear Sir,

Colleagues from the Asociación Latinoamericana de Archivos have contacted us to express concerns regarding the eviction of the National Archives of Peru, from the Superior Court of Lima premises, where it is currently located. We were very concerned at hearing this news and wanted to write to you to underscore the role that archives play in good governance and openness of the courts which require appropriate archival facilities in order to protect documentary heritage and enable researcher access.

We hope that as Chief Justice and President of the Superior Court of Lima you can appreciate the vital role information and archives management play in the administration of the rule of law and ensuring the capture and maintenance of credible evidence for court proceedings. Further archives and information management are important in ensuring accountability and transparency of governments and enabling the protection of citizen rights. UNESCO has underscored the key role of archives in good governance through the Universal Declaration on Archives (2011), which also reinforces the responsibility that decision-makers have in protecting archives in their jurisdictions. The declaration states that:

- The management of archives is valued and carried out competently by all bodies, private or public, which create and use archives in the course of conducting their business;
- Adequate resources are allocated to support the proper management of archives, including the employment of trained professionals;
- Archives are managed and preserved in ways that ensure their authenticity, reliability, integrity and usability;
- Archives are made accessible to everyone, while respecting the pertinent laws and the rights of individuals, creators, owners and users

The archival mandate is carried out in many different ways such as providing advice to government departments on how to create, manage and maintain records until transfer; educating civil servants and citizens on the value of current and historical records as they carry out their day to day affairs; but most especially by providing access to archival material. Accessibility is one of the core tenants of our profession and the reason for our work, but in order to provide access to holdings archives need trained personnel along with appropriate

facilities that are accessible to researchers and that ensure that archives are able to protect and preserve their holdings.

We hope you can appreciate and support the significant contribution archival institutions make to good governance, rule of law, openness of the courts and accountability. We are happy to meet and speak with you at your convenience if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Mr David Fricker
President
International Council on Archives