

**OFICINA DE RICARDO MARTINELLI B.
EX PRESIDENTE DE LA REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ**

Journalist
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International Section

In light of the news published in its edition of December 9, 2016, which refers to the legal and political situation of former President Ricardo Martinelli in Panama, I have to indicate the following:

1. It is wrong to say that former President Martinelli is in the United States to avoid facing these political processes. Actually having no accused status and haven't not being formally charged, he has faced each of this processes through his attorneys as granted by our laws and constitution. Is a fact that he remains in the United States because in Panama his life is threatened by the political persecution of President Juan Carlos Varela.
2. None of the investigations initiated against former President Martinelli are on response of a complaint. Those are caused by the Public Ministry remission of files, under President Juan Carlos Varela's control.
3. Former President Ricardo Martinelli has not been charged with any crime in the Republic of Panama by the Supreme Court of Justice.
4. All the investigations initiated are politically motivated processes, which are part of the political persecution of President Juan Carlos Varela against Former President Martinelli, using the control and pressure he exert on the Public Ministry and the Supreme Court of Justice.
5. The alleged linkage in the case known as "dehydrated food" arises from the mention made by the former PAN director, a statement that arose from undue and illegal pressures to falsely implicate the Former President Martinelli, as denounced after the diligence done by lawyer of the former director Of the PAN. It is important to note that in the audits carried out by the General Controller of the Republic, a body that supervises public funds, the Former President is not mentioned in any of its parts.
6. Of the investigations related to the supposed alleged wiretaps, it is necessary to highlight that there is no documentary evidence or material that links former President Ricardo Martinelli in the alleged facts, as in the case mentioned above, the alleged linkage comes from an alleged protected witness . It is noted that in the case of the court in which the investigation was initiated, the judge determined the following:
 - a) There is no protected witness;
 - B) The address and telephone number provided by the alleged protected witness are false.It is important to note that there are numerous testimonies of people who were subjected to psychological pressure and torture to falsely implicate former President Ricardo Martinelli in the alleged facts. Absurdly, although there was no imputation or accusation against former President Martinelli, which made him part of the file, illegal measures were taken to: declare a rebellion; Arrest warrant for extradition purposes and an extradition request was submitted.
7. To date, 21 requests for investigation have been submitted to the Supreme Court of Justice trying to falsely involve former President Ricardo Martinelli, of which only 7 have been admitted, 9 are pending of decision and 5 have been rejected; I reiterate that none of these investigations have led to imputations of charges or accusations.

It is a known fact that former President Ricardo Martinelli and other officials of his administration are persecuted politicians of the current President Juan Carlos Varela, whose management reflects, in all public opinion poll, very low approval ratings. It is being a fact that every time Varela's acceptance falls in the polls and / or acts of corruption of the Varela administration are revealed, new cases are brought by President Varela against the former president Martinelli or against officials of his administration as an strategy of distraction.

Sincerely,



LUIS EDUARDO CAMACHO CASTRO
Official spokesman for former President Ricardo Martinelli

I request that in the exercise of the right to reply, this note be published in full and an apology be given to the former President Ricardo Martinelli for the inaccuracies that the news mentioned contains.

c.c Anjali Tsui
David Iaconangelo
Selina Cheng
Embassy of the United States