



Confederação Maçônica Interamericana
Confederación Masónica Interamericana
Inter-American Masonic Confederation

Desde 14 de abril de 1947
Desde el 14 de abril de 1947
Since April 14, 1947

Conselho Executivo / Concejo Ejecutivo / Executive Council

To
All Regular Grand Lodges of the World
Att.: M.W. Grand Masters

The Inter-American Masonic Confederation – CMI and its affiliated Grand Lodges and Grand Orients offer their most fraternal greetings to the regular Masonic world and send this document aiming to provide correct, reliable, and transparent information on some points that have been causing confusion in the international Masonic field.

The CMI - Inter-American Masonic Confederation

The CMI was founded on April 14, 1947 by 44 Grand Lodges with the objective of bringing together Grand Lodges and Grand Orients to debate issues of Masonic and social interest and work for the development and improvement of Freemasonry.

It brings together 97 regular Grand Lodges and Grand Orients from all over America and Europe. And this year completes 77 years of uninterrupted Masonic work and prosperity.

Among its many projects and agreements, it has signed a mutual cooperation agreement with the OAS (Organization of American States).

The administrative structure of CMI is made up of a President (Grand Master in office), an Executive Secretary (Past Grand Master) and 6 Zones, each with a Vice President (Grand Master or Past Grand Master) or Zone President, who form the Executive Council. Among many other Commissions, CMI also has an Information Commission for Recognition.

As it can be seen, the organizational format is similar to that of other Conferences and Confederations around the world that work in an organized and coordinated manner.

Membership of CMI is preceded by a rigorous study on regularity criteria. And among them, on the regularity of origin of the requesting Grand Lodge or Grand Orient.

Each CMI Zone holds its Assemblies annually to discuss matters concerning its members. Likewise, the CMI holds its Grand General Assembly every 3 years. All matters are addressed by its members (affiliated Grand Lodges and Grand Orients) with opinions and previous debates from the different instituted commissions.

The Paraguay case

As the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Paraguay is a founding member of CMI, the Confederation has been accompanying the Paraguayan situation after the schism that took place in the Symbolic Grand Lodge in 2005.

CMI had to resolve the representation of the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Paraguay before the Confederation because, as a consequence of the division, two Grand Masters claimed the succession of the last Grand Master in exercise of the Symbolic Grand Lodge then still unified in the Republic of Paraguay.

That is to show, that the question has never been between an "old" Grand Lodge and another "new" Grand Lodge, but between two lines of succession to the only Symbolic Grand Lodge of Paraguay.



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CMI heard on repeated occasions from representatives of both positions. In addition, a commission of three Grand Masters was formed, who visited Paraguay and presented a unanimous opinion in 2007. Finally, and after a deep documents and background analysis, the Grand Masters of CMI, gathered at the 2009 General Assembly in Bogotá – Colombia, having participated in several meetings on the subject during the previous 4 years, recognized the line of succession of Grand Masters that since their origin in 1894, go through GM José Marsal (1923), reach GM Reinaldo Domínguez Dibb (2003/2006), continue with GM Ignacio Mendoza (2006/2010), GM Euclides Acevedo (2010/ 2014), GM Édgar Sánchez Caballero (2014/2022) and currently GM José Fernández Zacur (2022/ -).

Thus, and in the understanding of the competent bodies of CMI, the regular and recognized Grand Lodge in Paraguay is the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Paraguay with the uninterrupted succession of Grand Masters cited in the previous paragraph.

This decision was ratified on multiple occasions. By the General Assembly of 2015, in Zonal Assemblies, by the Executive Council and by successive Executive Secretariats.

It is important to highlight that this is also the understanding of the Grand Lodges and Grand Orients that geographically border Paraguay (Argentina, Bolivia, Paraná and Mato Grosso do Sul) and that, therefore, know the situation perfectly well since they coexist with border Lodge visitation in their daily lives. Likewise, it is the understanding of all the Spanish-speaking Grand Lodges of South and Central America. It is the understanding of a considerable number of Grand Lodges and Grand Orients in Brazil and North America. In fact, it is the understanding of the vast majority of regular Grand Lodges and Grand Orients on the five continents. Finally, it is the understanding of the United Grand Lodge of England, the mother Grand Lodge of regularity in the world.

Notwithstanding the above, CMI hopes for the reconciliation of Symbolic Freemasonry in Paraguay. Always with fraternal bases and attending to the pillars of regularity.

Redress

For some years now we have been suffering from an undeniable attempt, by some few – but disrespectful and often excessive – Brothers belonging to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, to influence matters of Latin American Freemasonry and the Grand Lodges and Grand Orients affiliated to CMI.

This attempt escalated from simple "recognition suggestions" for Masonic organizations that invade the territory of Confederate Grand Lodges and Grand Orients, to pressure, veiled threats, serious accusations, disrespectful notes, and intrusive consultations.

Unfortunately, the Grand Lodge of Florida did not disavow these Brothers. Furthermore, it took such conduct as its own, an action completely removed from the international Masonic protocol, based on fraternity and harmony.

As an outcome of a series of discourteous and even offensive actions, the Grand Lodge of Florida withdrew its recognition from 11 Grand Lodges members of CMI using as an excuse, statements of an institutional nature, issued to maintain the internal harmony of the Confederate Grand Lodges and Grand Orients, based on statutory norms of the Confederation sovereignly accepted by its members. Such statements and declarations neither referred to nor affected the Grand Lodge of Florida, which was taken for granted.





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We are surprised by such a determination, adopted with respect to Grand Lodges that only exercised the same sovereignty that the Grand Lodge of Florida proclaims in the management of its international relations. The double-talk is evident. Perhaps for this reason, other Latin American Grand Lodges had already interrupted their relations with the Grand Lodge of Florida before the latest events.

It is neither Masonic nor ethical for Brothers with airs of arrogance and superiority to use, to impose their personal agenda to a Grand Lodge that, although not part of CMI, enjoy all our respect.

Thus, aiming for fraternal relations, for institutional respect, for Masonic regularity and for the independence and sovereignty of the Grand Lodges, CMI cannot remain indifferent to this type of behavior against its confederated Grand Lodges and Grand Orients.

CMI, at 77 years old, composed of 97 regular Grand Lodges, many of them centenary and bicentenary, is mature enough to conduct itself regularly and responsibly in its own affairs.

We conclude this letter for global Regular Freemasonry with wishes that the GAOTU enlighten all the leaders of the Masonic world, so that they continue working for the good and happiness of humanity.

Fraternally,


Luis Tipacti
President


Géraldo de Souza Macedo
Executive Secretary

Lima, Peru, February 14, 2024.



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