

STATEMENT OF DEFENSE REGARDING THE PRESS RELEASE FROM THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Today's announcement by the U.S. Department of Justice is just the latest chapter in a reckless campaign of government overstop. The revealed charges are not based on the truth, but on the voices of a handful of disgruntled former congregants: individuals with pending accounts, personal revenge to pursue and, in many cases, an economic benefit to be obtained through civil lawsuits.

The government has allowed itself to be used as a pawn in this scheme, giving credibility to alleged "victims" whose agendas and motives are evident. These are not impartial witnesses seeking justice; they are opportunists chasing headlines, money and revenge.

For decades, La Luz del Mundo has been a community of global and prosperous faith, dedicated to service, charity and devotion. Precisely because of the growth of the Church and its refusal to give in to political or cultural pressures, it has become the target of attacks. The DOJ accusation has less to do with justice and more with silencing a religious institution that certain powerful actors do not understand or accept.

The broad and sensational accusations exposed in this press release are just unproven allegations disguised with incendiary language.

They rely on exaggeration, insinuations and a prejudiced narrative designed to poison public opinion long before a jury hears the evidence.

This is not justice: it is persecution through a press release.

We categorically deny these charges. We reject the grotesque portrait painted by the government and its allies. And we remind the public: in this country, every accused is presumed innocent until his guilt is proven beyond any reasonable doubt. That principle cannot be eroded simply because the government decides to defame a church and its leaders with accusations that it cannot prove.

The defense will highlight these charges for what they are: desperate, unfounded and motivated by hidden interests. We will not allow the government to use the justice system as a weapon against a community of faith simply because it is convenient, popularly or politically appropriate to do so.