



USAID | NICARAGUA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

August 24, 2007

Mr. Javier Arguello
javierarguello03@yahoo.com

Dear Mr. Arguello:

I am in receipt of your letters: (1) to me, dated July 30, 2007, in which you make reference to the close-out of the USAID/Nicaragua's Cooperative Agreement with Caribbean Central American Action (CCAA) to provide support to *Fundación Nicaraguense para el Desarrollo Económico y Social* (FUNIDES); (2) another to Mr. Paul Bonicelli dated August 6, 2007; and (3) your email to me dated August 22, 2007.

In the letter of August 6, 2007 addressed to Mr. Paul Bonicelli, you have alleged that USAID has "orchestrated a manipulation" of local labor law through a "trusted USAID lawyer" regarding your severance payment from CCAA. To clarify, the Commercial Section of U.S. Embassy maintains a list of local medical doctors and legal firms that are known to the community. This is a routine service offered to all American citizens and businesses overseas who request help from the U.S. Embassy when searching for local professional services. Neither the Embassy nor USAID recommended a particular legal firm to CCAA; indeed, USAID has no current relationship with any local legal firm.

With regard to your use of FUNIDES letterhead, the FUNIDES Board of Directors has informed us that your letter to Mr. Bonicelli does not represent the views of the board and that your correspondence was of a personal nature. The board has stated that they had no prior knowledge of the correspondence or its content, and the views and opinions expressed do not reflect those of FUNIDES or its board members.

As a former contractor for CCAA, if you feel you have not been compensated adequately for your services I would encourage you to work directly with CCAA. It is CCAA's responsibility to address your concerns consistent with whatever laws or regulations may apply to your contract. You have had no contractual relationship with USAID and it would not be appropriate for me or USAID to attempt to interpret Nicaraguan labor law on your behalf.

Cordially,

Alex Dickie, Ph.D.
Mission Director

cc: Board of Directors, FUNIDES