



University for Peace Universidad para la Paz



Apdo. 138-6100 | Ciudad Colón, Costa Rica

Phone +506-2205-9000; Fax: +506-2249-1929

email: info@upeace.org | Website: <http://www.upeace.org>

PRESS RELEASE

Founder of the University for Peace passed away

- Former President Rodrigo Carazo Odio, also served as First Rector, Chairman and *President Emeritus* of the University for Peace.

San José, 9 December 2009. The University for Peace (UPEACE) affiliated to the United Nations Organization, expresses its deep sorrow at the death of its lofty Founder, first Rector and President *Emeritus* Rodrigo Carazo Odio who devoted all his efforts to cooperate in solving international conflicts and carry the message of disarmament and peace building worldwide.

“Our prayers are with his family at this time of sorrow, and we, at the University for Peace send our heartfelt condolences to all of them and also to many of the members of the staff of this University who were very close to him. Our flags are at half mast because the University for Peace has lost its founder and a leader who fought for the sovereignty of his country”, said John J. Maresca, Rector of the University for Peace.

Don Rodrigo Carazo Odio, was born on 27 December 1926 in Cartago, Costa Rica. From a very young age he forged a life based on love of his family, work and service. Always a farmer; don Rodrigo was Manager of the National Institute of Housing, Congressman, President of the Republic of Costa Rica and a great international activist towards non-violent resolution of conflict.

During his term in office between 1978 and 1981 faced a violent regional situation which directly affected the country. President Carazo, making a powerful foreign policy tool based on disarmament and non-violence, defended the sovereignty of Costa Rica in international forums declaring peace to the world through important proposals that transformed international institutions.

Among many of his achievements are the founding of the University for Peace, the Ratification of the American Convention on Human Rights, the site for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the founding of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.

For further information, or interviews please contact Mariela Solís Chaves, Marketing and Communications Officer, Phone: +506 2205-9008 or email address msolis@upeace.org

