



Oficina de Prensa  
San Juan de Puerto Rico  
26 de octubre de 2024

## PRESS RELEASE: OPEN LETTER TO DONALD J. TRUMP

Mr. Donald J. Trump  
Former President of the United States of America

Dear Mr. Trump:

Having consulted with my brother bishops of Puerto Rico, as Archbishop of San Juan de Puerto Rico, I was dismayed and appalled by the comments made by the comedian, Tony Hinchcliffe, yesterday, Sunday, October 27, at your rally at Madison Square Garden.

Hinchcliffe said, "There's a lot going on, like, I don't know if you know this but there's literally a floating island of garbage in the middle of the ocean right now. Yeah. I think it's called Puerto Rico".

Puerto Rico is not a floating island of garbage. Puerto Rico is a beautiful country inhabited by a beautiful and noble people, which is why in Spanish it is called "*un encanto, un edén*". More Puerto Rican soldiers died in the Vietnam War as part of the United States military than soldiers from any state of the United States.

I enjoy a good joke. However, humor has its limits. It should not insult or denigrate the dignity and sacredness of people. Hinchcliffe's remarks do not only provoke sinister laughter but hatred. These kinds of remarks do not have a place in a society founded upon "liberty and justice for all."

Hinchcliffe's remarks do not promote a climate of equality, fraternity and good will among and for all women and men of every race, color and way of life which is the foundation of the American dream. These kinds of remarks should not be a part of the political discourse of a civilized society.

I call upon you, Mr. Trump, to disavow these comments as reflecting in any way your personal or political viewpoints.

It is not sufficient for your campaign to apologize. It is important that you, personally, apologize for these comments.

May you be blessed with wisdom.

Sincerely yours,

Roberto O. González Nieves, OFM  
Archbishop of San Juan de Puerto Rico