

Via Fax: 011 504 237 9070 Coronel Jorge Alberto Rodas Gomero Minister of Security of Honduras	Via Fax: 011 504 221 5667 Leonidas Rosa Bautista Attorney General of Honduras
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February 5, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **Bertha Oliva**, coordinator of the Committee of Relatives of the Disappeared in Honduras (Comite de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras, COFADEH) because of two death threats she has received. On January 27, she received a threatening text message: "Do you want to know who I am. Best for you that you don't know it. And I don't want you all to keep calling me or I will have to shut your mouth in a different way and you already know what I'm talking about." The second text message read: "How are you this morning. I hope you're fine. Because when I want it to happen you may turn up with your mouth full of worms. And in a trash bag."

On the same day, flyers were handed out in the Central Park in the capital of Tegucigalpa criticizing COFADEH's campaign for a national reparation policy for the relatives of Honduran victims of enforced disappearance, and accusing Bertha Oliva and her colleagues of corruption. COFADEH and other non-governmental organizations have been particularly active on behalf of many of the approximately 200 people who were subjected to enforced disappearance while in the custody of the Honduran security forces in the 1980s. On December 5, 2008, the Honduran president issued a decree establishing the framework for a program of reparations for victims of human rights violations, including disappearances, during the period 1980-1993.

We remind you of the right of human rights defenders to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

We strongly urge that you

- ensure that immediate, effective and appropriate measures are taken to guarantee the safety of Bertha Oliva and the staff of COFADEH in strict accordance with their wishes;
- order a swift, full and impartial investigation into the threats described above, make the results of such investigation public and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely yours,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: COFADEH ~ via U.S. mail
Roberto Flores Bermudez, Honduran Amabassador to the US ~ via fax
Hugo Llorens, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax
Dr. Ramón Custodio López Comisionado Nacional de Derechos Humanos ~ via fax
Rebecca Valerin, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax
Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992
US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
US Representatives Bocchieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

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The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: