

via fax 011 504 232 1666
Sr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa
 President of Honduras

via fax 011 504 221 5667
Sr. Luis Alberto Rubi
 Attorney General of Honduras

May 11, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We are dismayed and outraged that one of the threatened journalists about whom we wrote to you on April 26 is under renewed threat. On April 27, shots were fired outside the home of **Ricardo Oviedo**, a television journalist and President of the Association of Media Workers of Colon. On April 28 he was followed by two men on a yellow motorbike without number plates who had previously followed him and have been seen circling outside his house. Out of fear, he sought shelter in the office of a nongovernmental organization. He had received a death threat on April 21 (cf our letter of Apr. 26).

We have also received news of threats against another journalist, **Gerardo Chévez**, a reporter for radio station Radio Progreso in El Progreso municipality. Gerardo Chévez received threats via text message on March 29 and again on April 14: "We're finishing off the Chevezes. Next we're going to start with the priests." The threat referred to the April 13 assassination of radio journalist Luis Antonio Chévez Hernández (not a relative) in San Pedro Sula. Gerardo Chévez has been reporting on events organized by the opposition resistance movement and also on alleged local corruption. The director of Radio Progreso, Jesuit priest **Padre Ismael Moreno** ("Padre Melo"), was also threatened on April 8.

Reporters Without Borders recently declared Honduras "the world's deadliest country for the media." The assassinations of seven journalists have been documented since March 1:

- March 1: Joseph Hernández Ochoa, shot in his car.
- March 11: David Meza, shot in his car.
- March 14: Nahum Palacios Arteaga, shot in his car with AK-47 assault rifles.
- March 27: Jose Bayardo Mairena and Manuel Juárez, shot at close range in their car.
- April 13: Luis Antonio Chévez, shot.
- April 20: Jorge Alberto Orellana, shot.

In the light of these continued and additional threats to journalists we again **strongly urge** that you

- publicly condemn killings and intimidation of journalists and make a commitment to protect journalists;
- act immediately to provide all necessary protection to Ricardo Oviedo, Gerardo Chévez, Padre Ismael Moreno, and other journalists under threat, in accordance with their wishes;
- carry out an urgent, thorough and impartial investigation into the killings of the six journalists and the threats made against other journalists, make the results public, and bring those responsible to justice;
- implement the orders for protection from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH) ~ via fax 011-504-220-5280
 Roberto Flores Bermudez, Ambassador of Honduras to the US ~ via fax: 1-202-966-9751
 Hugo Llorens, Ambassador of the US to Honduras ~ via fax: 011-504-236-9037
 Rebecca Valerin, Desk Officer for Honduras, US State Department ~ via fax: 1-202-647-2597
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 1-202-458-3650
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Sutton, Wilson, Space ~ via email

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