

Via fax: 011 504 239 3298 Sr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa President of the Republic of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 221 5667 Sr. Luis Alberto Rubi Attorney General of the Republic of Honduras
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August 11, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **Kenia Oliva Cardona**, a lawyer with the human rights organization Committee of Relatives of the Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH). On July 21 her car was broken into, documents inside the car searched and stolen, and a laptop computer, which contained confidential COFADEH files, was stolen; other valuable items such as the car radio were left untouched.

Kenia Oliva had left her car parked near the Public Prosecutor's Office in Tegucigalpa while she spent two hours reviewing the progress of human rights abuse cases previously filed by COFADEH. Many of the cases allege involvement of state security forces. For instance, Kenia Oliva had worked on the case of unarmed civilian killed in 2007; in April of this year, two police officers and two soldiers were found guilty of the killing.

This is not the first threat against Kenia Oliva. She was the victim of sabotage in September 2009 when she discovered that someone had loosened the wheel bolts of her car. Her car had been parked in front of a police station while she was defending 49 peasants who had occupied the offices of the National Agrarian Institute in order to protect their land titles.

We have written several letters these past two years to protest human rights abuses against COFADEH staff and the people they are working to protect. In November 2009, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) called on the Honduran authorities to protect Kenia Oliva, along with 16 other members of COFADEH and their immediate families. This order has not been effectively implemented, leaving Kenia Oliva and the other 16 COFADEH members at risk.

COFADEH is one of Honduras's main human rights organizations, and has been at the forefront of efforts to document and report human rights violations, including those committed against members of the resistance movement since the June 2009 coup d'état. We remind you that human rights defenders have a right to carry out their activities without any unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. **We strongly urge that you:**

- conduct an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the theft of the documents and laptop computer from Kenia Oliva's car, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- take immediate steps to fully comply with the IACHR order to provide appropriate protection to Kenia Oliva and the other 16 COFADEH staff and their immediate families

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH) ~ via fax: 011-504-220-5280
 Eduardo Enrique Reina, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: (202) 966-9751
 T.H. David Alfonso Hernandez Caballero, Charge d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Honduras ~ via fax: 1-202-966-9751
 Hugo Llorens, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax: 011-504-236-9037
 Rebecca Valerin, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 1-202-647-2597
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: 1-202-458-3650
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Bocchieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email
 UA 166/2010 HONDURAS

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