

Fax: 011 504 2290 5129 Ana Pineda Minister for Justice and Human Rights of Honduras	Fax: 011 504 2221 5667 Sr. Luis Alberto Rubi Attorney General of Honduras
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July 1, 2011

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are very concerned for the safety of **Alex David Sánchez Alvarez**. Sánchez is an LGBT activist and human rights defender who was threatened at gunpoint for the third time this year. We believe that his life is in danger.

At about 8:10 a.m. on June 8, Alex David Sanchez Alvarez was on his way to the Centro de Prevención, Tratamiento y Rehabilitación de las Víctimas de la Tortura y sus Familiares, where he works as a nurse. Alex David Sánchez Alvarez had just got out of a taxi three blocks away from the office when he walked closely by a beige car with tinted windows, which was in stationary traffic. In the car there were three men dressed in the special uniform of the police "Cobra" unit. The passenger in the front lowered the window, pointed a gun at Alex David Sánchez Alvarez and said, "This is the little queer [...] yes it's you." Alex David Sánchez Alvarez ran and hid in a nearby building, where he wrote down the car's number plate and reported the incident to the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Alex David Sánchez Alvarez is active in the LGBT community, working and volunteering for a number of LGBT and human rights organizations. This is the third time this year he has been threatened with a pistol. On January 25 we wrote you after he was threatened and attacked by men using pistols twice in five days near the offices of two human rights organizations where he works. Those responsible have not yet been identified.

We are concerned about the environment faced by activists and other members of the LGBT community in Honduras. Attacks are rarely investigated thoroughly, and there is not enough protection for those who come forward to report these crimes. After the December 2009 assassination of LGBT activist Walter Tróchez (cf our letter of January 14, 2010), the murders of at least eleven LGBT persons in 2010, and more in early 2011, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) issued a statement on January 20, 2011: "[we are] deeply concerned about serious threats, acts of violence and murders against members of the transgender community in Honduras, in particular the rising number of killings of members of the LGBT community."

We strongly urge you to:

- order an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats made against Alex David Sánchez Alvarez, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- take immediate steps to provide full and appropriate protection to Alex David Sánchez Alvarez, in accordance with his wishes;
- ensure 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.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

copies: CPTRT: Centro de Prevención, Tratamiento y Rehabilitación de las Víctimas de Torturas y sus Familiares ~ via fax: 011 504 2236 7273
 Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
 Hugo Llorens, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via US mail
 Jeremy Spector, Attache for Human Rights and Labor, US Embassy to Honduras ~ via email
 Benjamín Gadan, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax 202-647-2597
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202 458-3992
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email
 UA 12/11update_Honduras

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