

via fax: 011 504 2221 5667
Sr. Luis Alberto Rubi
 Attorney General of Honduras

via fax: 011 504 2220 1756
Sr. Pompeyo Bonilla
 Minister of the Interior of Honduras

October 1, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We are very concerned for the safety of community leader **José Reynaldo Cruz Palma**, who was abducted in San Pedro Sula, Cortés Department, on August 30 by two unknown individuals.

At 2:30 pm, he and his wife were traveling on a minibus in San Pedro Sula when two men wearing balaclavas in a grey pick-up truck, which had been following them, stopped the minibus, boarded it, took the keys from the driver and ordered José Cruz's wife to get off the bus. They grabbed José Cruz, forced him off the bus and searched him without identifying themselves or giving any reason for their actions.

When his wife asked why they were doing this, one of the men pointed a gun at her face and released the safety catch, as if ready to shoot her, saying "it's nothing to do with you, it's about him." After searching him, the two men handcuffed him, covered his face with a hood and forced him into the pick-up truck.

At 3:00 pm his wife went to the Primera Estación Police Station to report the crime. The police officers only took her complaint at 4:00 pm when other members of the community went there to support her. The authorities have yet to take action to establish the whereabouts of José Cruz.

José Reynaldo Cruz Palma is well known in the community for his work on police abuses committed against local youths. He did a television interview in July expressing his concerns about violence in his local community; on August 27 at a public event he stood up to express his concerns about police abuses. A police officer stood up and protested, saying, "You have to shut up because we reckon you're a gang leader."

Because his whereabouts remain unknown and we believe his life is at risk, **we strongly urge you to**

- do everything necessary to establish the whereabouts of José Reynaldo Cruz Palma;
- launch a full, impartial and independent investigation into his abduction, make the results public, and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: COFADEH ~ via fax: 011.504.2220.5280
 Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
 Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax
 Nathan Andeson, Attache for Human Rights and Labor, US Embassy to Honduras ~ via email
 Benjamin Gadan, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax 202-647-2597
 Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202 458-3992
 US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
 US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

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