

via fax: 011 504 2239 3298 Porfirio Lobo Sosa President of the Republic of Honduras	via email Ana Pineda Minister for Justice and Human Rights of Honduras
Fax: 011-504-2221 5667 Pompeyo Bonilla Minister of Security of Honduras	via Fax: 011 504 2221 5667 Sandra Ponce Human Rights Unit of the Office of Attorney General
via fax: 011 504 2221 5620 Jany Del Cid Special Prosecutor for Ethnic Affairs of Honduras	

October 24, 2011

Dear Sirs and Madams:

We are writing to express our concern for the safety of **Miriam Miranda**, Coordinator of OFRANEH, the National Black Organization of Honduras (*Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña*), and to insist that the harassment and threats against her cease completely and immediately. The harassment and threats against her, OFRANEH and against everyone who defends freedom of expression and the right to a dignified life, are a threat to the most basic human rights. This repression is evidence that not even the most basic guarantee to exercise liberties that are fundamental for any democracy exist any longer in Honduras. Furthermore, the repression goes against existing international standards defending the rights of the indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.

We demand that Honduras guarantee absolute respect for the preventative protection measures (*medidas cautelares*) granted to Miriam Miranda.

Over the past few years, we have written several letters to Honduran officials asking for investigations into human rights abuses carried out against members of OFRANEH and the Garífuna community and demanding protection for them. In our most recent letter (April 5, 2011), we asked for an investigation into the unjust detention and police beating of Miriam Miranda on March 28; we are still awaiting a response regarding your investigation.

We call on our leaders and political representatives to take strong measures demanding that Honduras immediately end any and all harassment and abuse against Miriam Miranda.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: OFRANEH ~ via email: ofraneh@yahoo.com
 Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Amabassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
 Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via US mail
 Nathan Andeson, Attache for Human Rights and Labor, US Embassy to Honduras ~ via email
 Benjamín 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 and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email
HSN_10/19/11_Honduras

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