

via fax: 011 504 2221 5667

**Sr. Luis Alberto Rubi**  
Attorney General of Honduras

via fax: 011 504 2235 8379

**Ana Pineda**  
Minister for Justice and Human Rights, Honduras

December 16, 2011

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are very concerned for the safety of **Andres Pavón** and **Cesar Adin Barraza**, two human rights workers of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras (CODEH). On December 5 at 7:15pm, as they stopped their pickup truck at a drive-through bank in the center of Tegucigalpa, a man in a blue pickup truck pulled up close to them, got out, tapped the window and said to Andres Pavón, "You are gangsters, you defend criminals...You think you can go unpunished but you know well what happened to La Tribuna." [referring to recently reported attacks on staff members of the newspaper *La Tribuna*].

The man also threatened Cesar Adin Barraza, saying, "I know you already, if I see you again I'm going to lynch you." The man left the scene only when a security guard intervened and blocked his vehicle.

Andres Pavón is a beneficiary of Precautionary Measures (PC 196/09) granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2009 to safeguard his security. To date, the order has not been fully implemented. Although he was provided with a phone number he could call in an emergency, it was not staffed when he dialed it on this occasion.

CODEH, one of the main human rights organizations in Honduras, has been heavily involved in efforts to document and report human rights violations both in the context of the June 2009 coup d'etat and during the administration of President Porfirio Lobo. Their members and other human rights defenders and journalists are frequently threatened, harassed and physically attacked, as evidenced by the situation described above.

Therefore, we **strongly urge** that you

- conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the incident and the threats against Andres Pavón and Cesar Adin Barraza, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- immediately comply fully with the IACHR order of June 28, 2009, providing protection to Andres Pavón as agreed to by him.

We again 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.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

cc: CODEH ~ via email  
Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Amabassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 966 9751  
Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax: 011 504 2238 5114  
Nathan Anderson, Attache for Human Rights and Labor, US Embassy to Honduras ~ via fax: 011 504 2238 4446  
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:**