

via fax: 011 504 2221 5667 <b>Sr. Luis Alberto Rubi</b> Attorney General of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 2235 8379 <b>Sra. Ana Pineda</b> Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Honduras
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February 2, 2012

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are concerned for the safety of **Itsmania Pineda Platero** in Tegucigalpa, the director of the Asociación Xibalba, an activist organization working on issues of public security and youth rehabilitation. She also has a personal blog where she writes about freedom of expression, organized crime and youth. On January 6 at 6pm, she received a phone call from an unknown man who told her "We will kill you, bitch." Then at 10pm she received another phone call from the same number; nobody spoke to her directly, but she heard men's voices and a noise which sounded like a firearm trigger being clicked.

On January 8 at 12:27pm, she was threatened by a text message: "...Don't play with fire because not even your bodyguards will save you, ...be careful." On January 9 at 8:26am, she received another threatening text message: "Any moment now we're going to toss you into *El Crematorio*; we are going to be your nightmare." *El Crematorio* is a well-known rubbish dump in Tegucigalpa where corpses have been found in the past.

Itsmania Pineda Platero is a member of Journalists for Life and Freedom of Expression. These acts of intimidation against her are further evidence of ongoing threats and intimidation of journalists and human rights defenders, particularly those researching organized criminal activity, human rights violations and those speaking out about the coup d'etat of June 2009.

Itsmania Pineda Platero does not have any bodyguards. We believe her life is at risk. Therefore, we **strongly urge you to**

- initiate an independent and impartial investigation into the threats against Itsmania Pineda Platero, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- take immediate steps to provide appropriate protection to Itsmania Pineda Platero, in accordance with her wishes;
- allow human rights defenders to act without unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

We are deeply disturbed at what appears to be a lack of action by the government of Honduras to protect basic freedoms and security of its citizens. Last year we wrote government officials at least one letter each month about an urgent human rights case. We have seen no response or action on any of these cases.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: C-LIBRE ~ via email  
Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751  
Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax  
Nathan Anderson, 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, Chair, 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

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