

via fax: 011 504 2221 5667 Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí Attorney General of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 2235 8379 Sra. Ana Pineda Minister for Justice and Human Rights, Honduras
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February 3, 2012

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **Gilda Silvestrucci**, a journalist in Tegucigalpa, where she hosts a program on *Radio Globo* that focuses on human rights issues. In recent weeks she has been campaigning for justice for journalists who have been threatened, attacked or killed as a consequence of their work in exposing human rights violations.

On January 23, a half hour after the end of her radio program, she received a call to her mobile phone in which a man asked if she was the owner of the phone. When she demanded the reason for the question, the caller said "Look, we already know you have three children ...that just now you were in the street with your son...and the eldest [child] ...is at home, and we're going to kill you." After she hung up and alerted her colleagues, the caller rang again, but another journalist answered the phone. The man demanded to talk to Gilda Silvestrucci and claimed he was armed with a weapon.

Since the June 2009 coup d'etat, Honduras has become one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists; ten were assassinated in 2010. We have written you numerous letters concerning the murders and constant threats to journalists (cf our 2011 letters of Jan 12, May 6, and Sep 9). Our most recent letter of Feb 2, 2012 called attention to death threats against Itsmania Pineda Platero, a member of Journalists for Life and Freedom of Expression. Gilda Silvestrucci is also a member of this organization, which in December 2011 organized a march to draw attention to the high numbers of attacks and killings of journalists.

Because we believe the life of Gilda Silvestrucci is in danger, we **strongly urge** that you:

- conduct an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats against Gilda Silvestrucci, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- take immediate steps to fully provide appropriate protection to Gilda Silvestrucci and her family in accordance with her wishes.

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: COFADEH ~ via fax: 011 504 2220 1528
 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: