

<p>via fax: 011 504 2239 3298 Sr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa President of the Republic of Honduras</p>	<p>via fax: 011 504 2269 3000 Sr. Juan Orlando Hernández President of National Congress of Honduras</p>
<p>via fax: 011 504 2269 3069/2269 3981 Sr. Joge Alberto Rivera Aviiés President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras</p>	<p>via fax: 011 504 2221 5670/2221 3099 Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí Attorney General of Honduras</p>

June 14, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about the killing of four civilian bystanders during a drug interdiction operation by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Honduran security forces on May 11 in the **indigenous Miskito community of Paptalaya**, Ahuas municipality, in the La Moskitia (Mosquitia) region of Gracias a Dios Department. The victims killed included two pregnant women (**Juana Jackson Ambrosio and Candelaria Pratt**), **Enerson Martinez Henriquez**, and **Chalo Brock Wood**, age 14.

In addition to the four killed, four others were wounded, three homes were searched, and three people were subject to cruel and degrading treatment. As of early June, two of the victims had not received surgical treatment for their serious injuries.

During a press conference on June 1, President Porfirio Lobo Sosa made discriminatory comments about the indigenous population. He insinuated that the villagers were drug traffickers because they were on the Patuca River at early hours of the morning. The fact is, people travel by water at these hours so as to avoid the sun and also because there is a lack of bridges and roads in this territory. We believe that the so called "war on drugs" is a pretense for militarizing regions of Honduras and repressing campesino, Afro-descendant and indigenous communities.

We **strongly urge** you to:

- take the necessary measures to provide the necessary medical treatment to and guarantee the safety of the survivors of the May 11 attack;
- conduct impartial and exhaustive investigations into what happened on May 11 to determine the chain of command and determine who gave the order to fire weapons;
- sanction, according to the law, all who are responsible; and
- provide full reparation for damages to the families and the community of Paptalaya.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

Copies: Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Amabassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
 Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax 011 504 2236 9037
 Nathan Anderson, Attache for Human Rights and Labor, US Embassy to Honduras ~ via email
 Benjamin Gedan, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax 202.647.2597
 Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email
 Tracy Robinson, Rapporteur for Honduras, 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

6/4/2012_Presente Honduras

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