

via fax: 011 504 2220 1756
Estimado Sr. Pompeyo Bonilla
 Minister of Interior of Honduras

via fax: 011 504 2235 8379
Estimada Sra. Ministra Ana Pineda
 Minister for Justice and Human Rights of Honduras

August 25, 2012

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **Donny Reyes**, Coordinator of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organization Rainbow Association (Asociación Arcoiris). When Reyes left his house for work on July 5, a man on a motorbike followed him. Fearing for his safety, Reyes returned to his house and after an hour, with no sign of the man outside, he left again. As he approached the Rainbow Association office, the man on the motorbike re-appeared, drove alongside Reyes' car, stared at him, lifted his t-shirt and put his hand on a gun tucked in his trousers. The man rode away when Reyes drove towards a police station. In fear, Reyes called a colleague and sought refuge in the offices of another LGBT organization.

Lawyers at the Center for the Investigation and Promotion of Human Rights (CIPRODEH) called the police to request that they accompany Reyes to a safe place, but they refused. CIPRODEH came for him, called the Ministry of Interior's Human Rights Unit and arranged a meeting for the next day with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Attorney General's Office and the police. The meeting was cancelled a half hour before it was to start.

We have been asking authorities in Honduras since 2007 to protect Donny Reyes and others active in the LGBT community. In 2009 Donny Reyes was granted Precautionary Measures from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). In February 2011 he and his legal representatives and Honduran authorities agreed on protection measures: daily police patrol cars past his home and office and a direct line of communication to the deputy superintendent and inspector of police. Police patrols occurred sporadically between February and March 2011; there have been none since. In March 2012, authorities again gave assurance of regular patrols, but there have been none. The emergency phone number has gone unanswered.

The US State Department's 2011 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices reported complicity of Honduran law enforcement in human rights abuses and that "police officers targeted vulnerable persons, including LGBT people." On June 26, 2012 eighty-four members of the US House of Representatives wrote to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regarding protection for the LGBT community in Honduras and investigations into the 70 LGBT persons killed since the 2009 coup, including a candidate of the LIBRE political party.

Because it is your duty to ensure that human rights defenders carry out their activities without fear of reprisal and because Donny Reyes is at serious risk, **we strongly urge you to:**

- conduct an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into all incidents of intimidation and following of Donny Reyes, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice; and
- comply fully with the IACHR orders for protection to Donny Reyes in agreement with his own wishes.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

CC: Asociación Acroiris ~ via US mail
 Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Ambassador 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 Gedon, 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 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: