

via fax 011 504 2232 1666 Sr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa President of the Republic of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 2221 3302/5667 Sr. Luis Alberto Rubi Attorney General of Honduras
via fax: 011 504 2220 1756/2232-0226 Sr. Pompeyo Bonilla Minister of Interior and Security of Honduras	

October 23, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about recurring death threats to **Pedro Rafael Alegría Moncada**, the Coordinator of Vía Campesina International and member of Via Campesina's World Coordination. Minister of Security Pompeyo Bonilla officially informed him recently of a plot to kill him. In a subsequent meeting of representatives from human rights and union organizations with President Sosa, he confirmed that he possessed similar information and that the threat also included two of his ministers.

On July 2, 2009, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) included Rafael Alegría's name on Precautionary Measure PM 196-09, which asked the government to adopt measures necessary to ensure the life and safety of those listed. To date, the government has not adopted specific measures to safeguard Rafael Alegría, who has been forced to go into hiding.

At midnight on August 11, 2009, two individuals in a grey double cab private vehicle fired three shots from high-caliber weapons at the offices of Via Campesina in Colonia Alameda in Tegucigalpa. Several people were staying in the office temporarily during the curfew (10pm-5am) that had been declared by the *de facto* government. In the following days an unknown person carrying a firearm tried to enter the office during a meeting of the campesino leadership.

On February 8, 2011, Rafael Alegría was confidentially informed that plans were being made in Miami for his kidnapping and torture. These plans were said to also include Juan Barahona, the Deputy Coordinator of the National Front of Popular Resistance (FNRP). Then planned kidnap and torture were supposedly motivated by their participation in the fourth ballot box, the term used to describe the people's consultation that President Zelaya promoted during the first half of 2009, prior to the military coup d'état that ousted him from office.

Because of this history of threats against him and the recent violent deaths of human rights defenders (cf our letters Sept. 24, Oct. 21), we believe that Rafael Alegría's life is in serious danger and **strongly urge** that you

- conduct full investigations to neutralize any plans that seek to end the life of Rafael Alegría;
- immediately implement full protection measures for human rights defenders;
- investigate reports by victims of persecution and threats; and
- identify and bring to justice the intellectual and material authors of these acts.

Sincerely

Brian J. Stefan Szittai,
Coordinator

cc: 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 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 US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

PROAH_Honduras

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