

via fax 011 504 2232 1666 <b>Sr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa</b> President of the Republic of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 2221 3302/5667 <b>Sr. Luis Alberto Rubi</b> Attorney General of Honduras
via fax: 011-504-2269-3069 <b>Jorge Rivera Aviles</b> President of the Supreme Court of Honduras	

October 26, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We urge you to set a retrial for political prisoner **Isabel "Chavelo" Morales López** and that you release him during the appeal process. Because of concerns for his personal safety, he has been isolated from the general prison population for the past several months.

Chavelo's imprisonment is part of an ongoing land dispute in the Lower Aguán region of Colón Department between campesinos and wealth landowner Henry Osorto, former Honduran National Police Commissioner. In 2008, when members of the campesino community Guadalupe Carney were reclaiming their land, members of Osorto's family, firing on the campesinos with high caliber rifles, burned to death when the house they were in exploded into flames; the fire was never properly investigated. In a clear act of intimidation, more than 300 members of Guadalupe Carney were initially listed as suspects; thirty still have open arrest warrants against them and fear arrest at any time.

Chavelo has been in prison since October 17, 2008 with no evidence that he had anything to do with the fire that burned the Osorto family. On June 25, 2010 he was convicted of homicide based on hearsay evidence. Additionally, there were apparent irregularities and contradictions in witnesses' stories and different versions from previous testimonies. On July 24, 2012, a sentencing hearing was held without the knowledge of Chavelo or his attorneys. Chavelo now faces 20 years in prison for a crime that he did not commit.

The international community is watching to see if there is justice in the Honduran judicial system. Please release Isabel "Chavelo" Morales López immediately.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely

Brian J. Stefan Szittai,  
 Coordinator

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

HondurasResists\_Honduras

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