

via fax: 011 504 2221 5667 Fiscalía General de la República Office of the Attorney General of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 2220 1756 Sr. Ministro Arturo Corrales Minister of Interior of Honduras
---	---

May 14, 2013

Dear Sirs:

We are very concerned for the safety of **Héctor Longino Becerra**, Executive Director of Freedom of Expression Committee (C-Libre), who has received death threats.

The evening of April 20 he received two phone calls on which he hung up because he could not understand the caller. In a third call, which he recorded, the man said, "I lead a campaign to kill you, your mom, your dad, your grandparents, your aunts and uncles, your friends and your friends' friends. If they are dead, I will revive them and kill them again, did you hear me?"

C-Libre is a coalition of journalists and civil society members created to promote and defend freedom of expression and the right of access to information. It operates Conexihon.info, an independent digital media site, which has been investigating and reporting cases of corruption, land conflict, mining issues, and the threatening climate in which journalists work. In recent weeks, members of C-Libre have been receiving numerous phone calls from unknown mobile phone numbers. The e-mail address of one of their correspondents has been hacked, and they believe that mobile phones of journalists working with them have been tapped.

In February 2012, following a visit to Honduras, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders identified journalists as being a group of human rights defenders who are particularly at risk.

In May 2012, in an open letter to the government, Amnesty International expressed deep concern at the sharp increase in attacks and threats against human rights defenders, including journalists, and urged the authorities to take steps to address the situation. They have not yet received a reply.

We **strongly urge** you to:

- conduct an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats against Héctor Longino Becerra and his family and the acts of harassment against others working with C-Libre and Conexihon.info, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice; and
- take immediate steps to provide appropriate protection to those mentioned above, in strict accordance with their wishes.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: C-Libre ~ via fax: 011.504.2237.9966
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 and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

UA 111/13_Honduras

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