

Via fax: 011 504 2221 5667 <b>Sr. Oscar Chinchilla Banegas</b> Attorney General of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 2290 5088 <b>Excmo. Sr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa</b> President of Honduras
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December 22, 2013

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to express our outrage at the **murder of journalist Juan Carlos Argeñal** in Danlí in El Paraíso Department. At 3pm on December 7 two armed men entered his house and shot him twice.

Juan Carlos Argeñal was a correspondent for Radio Globo and Globo TV, owner of a local TV station and an activist for the Freedom and Re-foundation Party (LIBRE). In the months prior to the killing he had reported about corruption in local government.

In July Juan Carlos Argeñal told the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH) about intimidation because of his work. He reported that he had felt pressure from local authorities who summoned him twice concerning broadcasting permits. He attended both meetings and said that he feared his journalism prompted such requests.

This is the eleventh letter we have written to government authorities since 2011 concerning the deaths of journalists that have occurred because of their work in exposing human rights violations. According to the National Commissioner for Human Rights, 30 journalists have been killed since January 2010.

We therefore **strongly urge** you to:

- carry out a full, impartial and independent investigation into the killing of Juan Carlos Argeñal, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- establish a protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists following consultation with civil society, in accordance with their recommendations and needs; and
- remember that journalists and human rights defenders have a right to carry out their activities without any unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Co-Coordinator

copies: Amnesty International, Central America Team ~ via email  
Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751  
Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via email [RanzinoGf@state.gov](mailto:RanzinoGf@state.gov)  
Tracy Robinson, Rapporteur for Honduras, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202 458.3992  
Kelsey Cambronne, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax 202.647.2597  
Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email  
US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email  
US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

UA 329/13\_Honduras

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