

via fax: 011 504 2221 5667
Sr. Fiscal Oscar Chinchilla Banegas
Attorney General of Honduras

via email: comunicacionCNDS@gmail.com
Sr. Ministro Arturo Corrales
Minister of Interior of Honduras

March 25, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are very concerned for the safety of **Mario Argeñal**, brother of journalist Juan Carlos Argeñal, who was killed on December 7, 2013 in Danili in El Paraiso Department (cf our letter of Dec 22, 2013). The investigation into his death has not moved forward. Mario has become the target of intimidation and harassment for speaking publicly about the incident and demanding justice from the authorities.

Mario Argeñal has given several interviews to national media since the murder, linking the journalist's exposure of corruption in local government to his killing. He has been subjected to acts of intimidation and harassment since he began demanding justice on behalf of his brother. On several occasions between December 11 and December 15 2013, two pickup trucks with no license plates drove around his house late at night. On February 24 between 2pm and 4pm, a man was stationed in a car outside his house for several hours before driving off.

We have written several letters to government authorities in Honduras 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, at least 30 journalists have been killed since January 2010.

We believe that Mario Argeñal is at risk of further intimidation and harassment because of his quest for justice. Therefore we **strongly urge** that you:

- 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;
- take immediate steps to fully provide appropriate protection to Mario Argeñal and his family, in strict accordance with their wishes;
- establish a protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists following consultation with civil society in accordance with their recommendations and needs.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordinator

copies: Amnesty International – Central America Team ~ via email
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US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

UA 329/13 Update_Honduras

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