

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

via email: [comunicacionCNDS@gmail.com](mailto:comunicacionCNDS@gmail.com)  
**Sr. Arturo Corrales**  
Minister of Interior of Honduras

May 11, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged at the murder of **Carlos Mejía Orellana** in El Progreso municipality, Yoro Department. He was head of marketing for the Jesuit-sponsored Radio Progreso and a member of the Reflection, Investigation and Communication Team (ERIC).

On the evening of April 11 Carlos Mejía was found dead in his home with multiple stab wounds. He had been threatened in the past in connection with his work on projects for the promotion of human rights and social justice. Following the coup d'état in 2009 and many subsequent instances of harassment, intimidation and threats, 18 members of Radio Progreso were granted precautionary protective measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). On May 27, 2011 the IACHR ordered the Honduran State to take all necessary measures to protect Carlos Mejía's life and physical integrity. To date, however, the authorities have failed to investigate any of the multiple threats received by the Radio Progreso media workers or to provide them with effective protection measures.

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.

In the face of the serious human rights situation, it is critical that the new government of Juan Orlando Hernández urgently implement a national human rights plan of action and establish a state mechanism to provide effective and comprehensive protection for journalists and human rights defenders.

We urge you to:

- carry out a prompt, full, exhaustive and independent investigation into the killing of Carlos Mejía and to bring those responsible to justice;
- fully implement the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights precautionary measures ordered in favor of members of Radio Progreso, in line with the beneficiaries' wishes;
- ensure that journalists and human rights defenders are able to carry out their activities safely and without fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Sincerely,

**Brian J. Stefan Szittai**  
Co-Coordinator

CC: Radio Progreso and ERIC ~ via email  
Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Amabassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751  
Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via email [RanzinoGf@state.gov](mailto:RanzinoGf@state.gov)  
Kelsey Cambronne, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via email  
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  
Catalina Botero, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email  
US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

UA 92/14\_Honduras

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