

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

via fax: 011 504 2221 5667

Lic. Soraya Morales
Special Prosecutor for Human Rights

August 11, 2014

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of journalist and human rights defender **Dina Meza** of Tegucigalpa. She is an award-winning journalist who denounces human rights abuses nationally and internationally and accompanies victims in their search for justice. She has experienced increasing harassment and intimidation in recent weeks, including the following incidents which she has reported to the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights:

- May 28 at 9:05pm she received a call on her mobile phone from an unknown individual with a high-pitched voice saying, "I'm going to beat you up if you continue messing around." A few minutes before, she had published news on her Facebook page relating to the murder of a political activist;
- June 5 as she was walking in Tegucigalpa, an unknown individual on a motorcycle without license plates, followed her and took off his helmet to show her he was looking at her. She had to run to elude him;
- June 23 she was carrying out an interview in a public place when an unknown individual approached her and started taking pictures;
- June 25 an unknown individual took pictures of a close family member who was meeting a friend in a public place. He approached Dina Meza's relative and showed the pictures he had taken;
- July 5 Dina Meza was followed while walking in Tegucigalpa with a family member.

We have previously written to officials in Honduras about our concern for the safety of Dina Meza (cf our letter May 2, 2012). According to the National Commissioner for Human Rights, 30 journalists have been killed since January 2010. We have reason to believe that Dina Meza and her family are at increasing risk. Therefore, we **strongly urge** you to

- immediately and independently investigate the threats, harassment and intimidation against Dina Meza and her family, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- provide effective protection to them in accordance with their wishes;
- guarantee that human rights defenders can carry out their work without fear of violence and threats, as established in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordinator

CC: Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
Julie de Torres, Chargé d' Affaires, US Embassy Honduras ~ via email in care of Johnson-MillerA@state.gov
Amanda Johnson-Miller, Human Rights and Labor Attaché, US Embassy in Honduras ~ via email Johnson-MillerA@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 cidhexpresion@oas.org
US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

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