

via fax: 011 504 2239 3298 Sr. Juan Orlando Hernández President of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 2221 5667 Sr. Oscar Chinchilla Banegas Attorney General of Honduras
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November 23, 2016

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about an assassination attempt against student activist **Dayanara Castillo**. On November 1 in Tegucigalpa, while she was driving her motorcycle with a friend, a vehicle with tinted windows and no license plates attempted to run over them. They were not physically injured because Dayanara Castillo managed to avoid the other vehicle.

As a result of her activism, Dayanara Castillo has been intimidated by faculty members and security guards at the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), expelled from the university, and received threatening phone calls. Members of her family have been followed by unidentified vehicles. She has also faced judicial harassment. In August 2015 she was detained, beaten by police officers, and threatened with death.

We are deeply concerned about the worsening climate of repression and attacks against human rights defenders in Honduras, including the recent assassination of several leaders of civil society: Berta Cáceres on March 2 (cf our letter of March 7); René Martínez on June 1 (cf our letter of June 23) and José Ángel Flores on October 18 (cf our letter of Oct 25). On August 19 the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) jointly condemned the killing of defenders in Honduras, calling it "one of the most dangerous countries for human rights defenders."

We consider the attacks on Dayanara Castillo a retaliation for her peaceful work in defense of human rights and we **strongly urge** that you

- carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the assassination attempts against Dayanara Castillo, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
- ensure that the human rights work of Dayanara Castillo is considered as a line of inquiry in the investigation of the attacks she suffered;
- take all necessary measures, in consultation with Dayanara Castillo, to guarantee her physical and psychological integrity and security, as well as that of her family;
- guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, including judicial harassment.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordinators

and

Christine Stonebraker Martínez

copies: Jorge Alberto Milla Reyes, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
James Nealon, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax 011 504 2236 9037
Olivia Franken, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via email
Francisco José Eguiguren Praeli, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
US Senators Brown & Portman
US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

Frontline 11/4/2016_Honduras

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