

via email: mprelacionespublicas@gmail.com ngosorto@gmail.com

Oscar Fernando Chinchilla Banegas
Attorney General of Honduras

via email: karlacueva144@gmail.com

Lica. Karla Cueva
Secretary of State for Human Rights Affairs

November 14, 2019

Dear Attorney General Chinchilla and Secretary Cueva:

We are deeply disturbed by the assassination of journalist **Buenaventura Calderón**, age 72, and killing of **his wife, María**, age 43, in Puerto Lempira in Gracias a Dios Department.

On November 1 two persons, with their faces covered and riding a motorcycle, fired several shots at Calderón as he was parking his vehicle in front of his house. He died immediately. His wife, who was with him in the car, died at the hospital from several bullet wounds.

Buenaventura Calderón was the host of. "Ecos de la Mosquitia," a daily news program on the Catholic radio *Kupia Kum*. He often addressed issues related to corruption in education and healthcare services, impunity in investigations of drug trafficking cases, and the territorial rights of the indigenous Misquito peoples of the region. He was also President of the Puerto Lempira Board of Trustees and a local representative for the Liberty and Refoundation (LIBRE) political party.

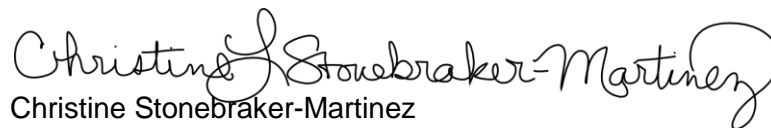
Buenaventura Calderón is at least the fourth journalist killed in Honduras in 2019 (cf our letters of Mar 24, Sep 22, Sep 23). His murder highlights the dangers journalists face in carrying out their work reporting on human rights, especially in isolated and rural communities. According to the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH), about 80 journalists have been killed in Honduras in the last 10 years.

We therefore **strongly urge** that you

- conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the killing of Buenaventura Calderón and his wife, publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice
- develop and enforce strong protocols to protect journalists that will enable them to carry out their work without fear for their lives.

Sincerely,


Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordinator


Christine Stonebraker-Martinez

copies: María Dolores Agüero, Ambassador of Honduras to the US ~ via website or fax, and US mail
Colleen Hoey, Chargé d'Affaires, US Embassy in Honduras ~ via email
Nate Rettenmayer, Political Officer at the US Embassy in Honduras ~ via email
David Tagle, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via email
Joel Hernández, Rapporteur for Honduras, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email and US mail
Edison Lanza, Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email and US mail
Antonia Urrejola, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email and US mail
Committee to Protect Journalists ~ via email
US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
US Representatives Beatty, Fudge, Gibbs, González, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Ryan ~ via email

11/06/19_CPJ_Honduras

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