

via fax: 011 504 220 4352 Alvaro Romero Minister of Public Security of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 221 5667 Leonidas Rosa Bautista Attorney General of Honduras
via fax: 011 504 234 1484 Milton Jimenez Puerto Foreign Minister of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 237 9070 Comisionado Salomon Escoto Salinas Head of the National Police of Honduras

April 23, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Group (LGBT) Asociación Arcoiris whose objective is to train human rights defenders and to promote HIV/AIDS prevention. We also believe that the life of **Donny Reyes**, the LGBT treasurer, is in grave danger.

On March 18 at 3am he had walked out of the Arcoiris office to accompany a colleague while she waited for a taxi. A few moments later, six police officers in two police cars stopped next to them and asked them for ID. Although Donny Reyes showed them his ID card, they told him to get into the car. When he refused, pointing out that he had done nothing wrong, they began beating him and forced him to get into the car. He was detained in a cell with 57 men in the Comayaguela Police Station. With encouraging shouts from a police officer, he was beaten, stripped and raped by four men who are members of street gangs.

At 10:30 am, after consenting to pay a bribe of 200 lempiras (US \$10) to be released, Donny ran away when the police officer guarding him left. He reported the incident to the Public Prosecutor's Office and to a senior police officer. He also underwent medical forensic examinations to record the violence he suffered.

Since March 27, police cars have parked several times a day in front of Arcoiris's office in an attempt to intimidate Donny Reyes and to prevent him from pursuing his complaint.

This is the latest incident of attacks on Arcoiris staff and offices, including a street assault on the former director, theft of documents, and destruction of computers and furniture between June 12 and July 1, 2006, for which no one has been brought to justice.

Based on the information stated above, **we insist that you**

- carry out a full and prompt investigation into Donny Reyes' arbitrary detention, rape and beating, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- ensure that the rights of LGBT people are protected and that they are not subjected to discrimination on account of their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- publicly condemn any human rights violations committed against the LGBT community, making it clear that such actions are unacceptable and will always be thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators prosecuted.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

Copies: Dr. Ramon Custodio López, National Human Rights Commissioner ~ via fax: 011 504 232-6894

Asociación Arcoiris ~ via fax: 011 504 208 2834 or 011 504 238 8447

Roberto Flores Bermudez, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 1 202 966 9751

Charles A. Ford, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax: 011-504-236-9037

Marcos Mandojana, Desk Officer for Honduras, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597

Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, via fax: (202)458-3992 or 202.458.6215

US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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