

via fax: 011 504 239 3298 Sr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa President of the Republic of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 221 5667 Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí Attorney General of Honduras
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August 13, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We are very concerned for the safety and physical well-being of **Gladys Lanza**, Coordinator for the Visitación Padilla Pro-Peace Women's Movement, a human rights organization working to promote and defend women's rights. It was one of the many Honduran women's organizations to play an active and visible role opposing the June 2009 coup d'état.

On the evening of July 17, Gladys Lanza received a threatening email message with six disturbing photos attached. Part of the email said: "...Now we're coming for you!!! [...] Billy Joya Amendola renewed." Billy Joya is greatly feared because of his reported activities with the 3-16 Battalion, a Honduran military intelligence unit in the 1980s charged with targeting political suspects and carrying out their abduction, detention, torture and murder. The photos attached to the email were an image of Billy Joya, a kitten holding a sniper rifle, a bizarre funeral procession led by men in prisoners' uniform, a watch with the time at 10:12, and two photos of Gladys Lanza. Three hours before, she had taken part in a radio program produced by the Committee of Relatives of the Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH). During the program, a text message was received: "You communists are the ones who deserve a kicking for being liars."

Throughout June, Gladys Lanza received four separate calls to her mobile phone in which she could hear only heavy breathing. She stopped answering calls from that same number, which continued throughout July.

On July 24, 2009, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) called on the Honduran authorities to protect Gladys Lanza. The Honduran authorities have not adequately implemented this order. Commitments to hold regular meetings with Gladys Lanza and to organize police patrols around the Visitación Padilla office have not been fulfilled, leaving her in danger.

We again remind you that human rights defenders have a right to carry out their activities without any unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. We **strongly urge** you to

- conduct an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats and harassment against Gladys Lanza and bring those responsible to justice.
- take immediate steps to fully comply with the IACHR order of July 24, 2009. The form of protection provided to Gladys Lanza must reflect her own wishes and be agreed to by her.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: CONFADEH ~ via fax: 011-504-220-5280
 David Alfonso Hernandez Caballero, Minister-Counselor, Charge d'Affaires ~ via fax: 202-966-9751
 Eduardo Enrique Reina, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202- 966-9751
 Hugo Llorens, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax: 011-504-236-9037
 Rebecca Valerin, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: 202-458-3992
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives Bocchieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

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