

Via fax: 011 504 269 3069 <b>Jorge Rivera Aviles</b> President of the Supreme Court of Honduras	Via fax: 011 504 221 5667 <b>Sr. Luis Alberto Rubi</b> Attorney General of Honduras
Via fax: 202 966 9751 <b>Leonardo Irias</b> Consular, Embassy of Honduras in Washington, DC	

August 25, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to express our deep concern for the safety of **Hector Soto**, director of the Civil Society Group, part of the popular resistance movement in Honduras. Over the course of several months, he has suffered death threats and numerous acts of intimidation. Prior to the November elections, his telephones were repeatedly tapped, conversations interrupted and information removed from his cell phone. He has been under surveillance by men in police uniform in unmarked cars at his office and his residence.

On July 27, 2010, Hector Soto received a death threat on his cell phone. That same day, there were several instances of suspicious activities in and around his office and residence. During July and August the computer networking in his office has been sabotaged and the phone lines continue to be tapped and interrupted.

We are well aware that these acts of intimidation are not isolated incidents. Over the last year, youth groups throughout Honduras have been subjected to attempted kidnappings of their members and death threats received via texts to their cell phones. In addition, there have been police incursions into educational centers, including the Vicente Caceres and Jesus Aguilar Paz Institutes and the National Autonomous University of Honduras. These incursions have resulted in arbitrary detentions of and injuries to the students.

Based on the facts presented above, **we urge that you**

- take immediate action to protect the life and safety of Hector Soto (in accordance with his wishes) and guarantee his right to carry out his work freely without threats and intimidation;
- conduct an urgent, exhaustive and impartial investigation regarding the threats and intimidation against Hector Soto, and make public the results of the investigation;
- immediately cease the policy of police and paramilitary intimidation and repression against the youth of Honduras.

The policy of intimidation and threats against human rights activists like Hector Soto and against young people goes against due process and the rights of life, safety, assembly, freedom of expression and thought. As you well know, these rights are protected by international human rights covenants signed and ratified by the Republic of Honduras. You have the power and the consequent responsibility to see that human rights of all people within your jurisdiction are protected. We strongly urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai,  
 Coordinator

CC: Eduardo Enrique Reina, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax  
 Hugo Llorens, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax  
 Gabriela Zambrano, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax  
 COFADEH: Comite de Familiares de Detenidos y Desaparecidos en Honduras ~ via fax 011-504-220-5280  
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992  
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

COFADEH\_08/18/10

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