

Fax: 011 504 239 3298 Sr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa President of the Republic of Honduras	Fax: 011 504 221 5667 Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí Attorney General of the Republic of Honduras
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September 12, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about the safety of journalists in Honduras, particularly in light of the recent assassination of **Israel Zelaya Díaz**, a radio reporter for *Radio Internacional*, who was found shot to death August 24 along a rural road near San Pedro Sula, Cortés Department. According to reports, he was last seen alive on August 24 around 2 p.m. as he was talking with a man in a taxi at a gas station.

Although Israel Zelaya Díaz had not mentioned receiving recent threats, his home was damaged in a fire of undetermined origin three months ago. Zelaya reported on a wide range of local topics, including politics and crime, but he was not involved in investigative work.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reports that eight journalists have been killed since March (cf our letters of Jan 25, Mar 3, Apr 26 and May 11, 2010). Government officials have tried to minimize these crimes and play down the pervasive climate of impunity in the country, but CPJ research shows a pattern of botched and negligent investigative work into the killings.

We strongly urge you to:

- conduct a swift, independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the murder of Israel Zelaya Díaz, make the results public, and bring those responsible to justice;
- adhere strictly to the UN Declaration of Human Rights, which ensures journalists the right to carry out their activities without any unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals;
- ensure the safety of all people exercising their right to association and free expression.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Eduardo Enrique Reina, Honduran Amabassador to the US ~ via fax 202.966.9751
 Hugo Llorens, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax 011 501 236 9037
 Gabriela Zabranó, 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 Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

CPJ/8/25/Honduras

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